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ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

TWENTY VOLUMES.

— (4.) —

COLONIES:
WEST INDIES.

Session
3 February—12 August 1842.

VOL. XXIX.

1842.

ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

1842.

TWENTY VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE
FOURTH VOLUME.

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PAPERS

RELATIVE TO THE

WEST INDIES.

1841—42.

JAMAICA—BARBADOS.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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1842.

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P A P E R S
RELATIVE TO
J A M A I C A.

JAMAICA.

(No. 214.)

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord JOHN RUSSELL to the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 23rd April, 1841.

WITH reference to your Despatch, No. 198, of the 28th February, enclosing a letter from Mr. Whitmarsh, the gentleman employed by the Jamaica Silk Company, in charge of the establishment recently located in the island, I now transmit to you the copy of a report from Mr. Burke, of Montserrat, on the progress of the silk culture in that island.

No. 1.
For Despatch No. 198, *vide* Papers relative to the West Indies, 1841, Part II. Jamaica, page 244.

It is stated in that report, as a discovery made on a visit to Martinique, that the silk-worm eggs should be kept at a degree of cold approaching to freezing.

In communicating a copy of this report to Mr. Whitmarsh, I should be glad if you would ascertain whether he was aware of this fact, and in what manner he had preserved the eggs which he brought to Jamaica from the United States.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. RUSSELL.

The Right. Hon. Sir C. T. Metcalfe, Bart., G.C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 1.

REPORT on the SILK CULTURE for the Quarter ended 31st December, 1840.

THE eggs alluded to in the last report as obtained from Guadaloupe, continued to hatch daily in small quantities, and at first appeared healthy, but soon showed signs of weakness, and few eventually came to maturity, and but a small number of cocoons were spun. Similar results attended the creole eggs of this island. The latter end of October I visited Martinique to ascertain the result of the use of an ice-house to preserve the eggs. Being favoured with a letter of introduction from his Honour William Shiell, president, administering the government of this island to His Excellency Governor Duval Daly, who introduced me to M. Vecoul, president of the Agricultural Society, &c., who takes a lively interest in the silk culture, and at his house I met M. Bouissett who has for several years had to contend with similar difficulties to those I have had to contend with, and from him I ascertained that he had some time since arrived at the conclusion that a degree of cold approaching to freezing was necessary for the eggs in order to obtain vigorous worms.

Enclosure in No. 1.

The colonial government of Martinique granted a sum of money sufficient to erect an ice-house on a large scale in the town of St. Pierres at a cost of about 1,000*l.* sterling, and under the supervision of M. Bouissett chambers have been constructed in the interior of the building of various degrees of temperature for the reception of the silk worm eggs, and he has found that the eggs wintered for three months commence hatching in about nine days, and in three days all are come forth as in the best conducted establishments in Europe; and that the worms have proved uniformly healthy and vigorous, and in due time spinning excellent cocoons of great beauty, size, and weight. This result is extremely satisfactory, as it removes at once all that has hitherto hindered success, and there is now every reason to think the silk culture will prove a source of wealth to these colonies, as this has been the invariable result in every country in which it has hitherto been established. The fact that a degree of cold nearly approaching to the freezing point is essential to the egg in order to the production of a vigorous worm does not appear to be known to the silk culturists of Europe. It is very gratifying to me to be able to state that I found the utmost willingness to impart information to me in Martinique as I also did on similar occasions in Guadaloupe, and I have just heard from M. Bouissett's informing me that on accomplishing my proposed visit in the latter end of this month he will be prepared to supply me gratuitously with an assortment of eggs suffi-

JAMAICA.

they had been there for a short time only, and were in several respects under unfavourable circumstances, yet afforded very gratifying results. Should no unforeseen hinderance occur, it is expected that eight crops of cocoons will be obtained here this year. The mulberries are healthy and full of leaf.

1st January, 1841.

(Signed) T. BURKE.

(No. 230.)

No. 2.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B., to Lord JOHN RUSSELL, dated King's House, 12th July, 1841.

No. 2.

2. I HAVE great pleasure in informing your Lordship that the late appointments of Chairmen of Quarter Sessions and Chief Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas, promise fully to accomplish the views with which you have made them. The gentlemen selected have hitherto given entire satisfaction in the discharge of their important duties, and have been received with perfect cordiality and respect by the judges and magistrates in whose courts they are appointed to preside, and by the former presidents whom they have superseded, and who continue cheerfully to afford their assistance on the Bench. All parties appear to be sensible of the advantage of having gentlemen of legal knowledge in the superintendence and guidance of those courts.

3. I am happy also to state that the higher courts under the Chief Justice and the two legal assistant Judges have commenced their proceedings with the good effect which was to be expected; and I believe that I may safely congratulate your Lordship on the success of the judicial reforms which it was your earnest desire to effect, and in which the legislature of Jamaica met your wishes with corresponding disposition, and a readiness and liberality which have merited and obtained your Lordship's applause.

(No. 247.)

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord JOHN RUSSELL to the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 19th August, 1841.

No. 3.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 230, of the 12th July, reporting that the appointments which have been made from this country of Chairmen of Quarter Sessions and Chief Judges of Courts of Common Pleas, in Jamaica, promise fully to accomplish the views with which they have been made,—that the gentlemen selected had hitherto given entire satisfaction in the discharge of their duties, and that the higher courts under the Chief Justice and the two legal assistant Judges had commenced their proceedings with good effect.

I have much pleasure in offering you my congratulations on the success of these judicial reforms, which were so much required.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. RUSSELL.

The Right Hon. Sir C. T. Metcalfe, Bart., G.C.B.

&c.

&c.

&c.

(No. 231.)

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B., to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

King's House, 13th July, 1841.

No. 4.

I HAVE the honour to submit the quarterly list of stipendiary magistrates, required by a circular letter recently received.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

C. T. METCALFE.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,

&c.

&c.

&c.

Enclosure in No. 4.

JAMAICA.

A LIST of STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES serving in the Island of JAMAICA for the Quarter ending the 30th of June, 1841.

Enclosure in No. 4.

Name.	Date of Appointment.
Abbott, Thomas	26 February, 1838.
Bell, William A. . . .	4 November, 1834.
Bourne, Stephen	26 December, 1834.
Brown, Peter	August, 1837.
Cocking, Ralph	March, 1834.
Daly, Richard	October, 1834.
Daughtrey, John	7 May, 1835.
Dillon, T. A. . . .	27 February, 1835.
Ewart, David	10 November, 1835.
Emery R. . . .	6 July, 1837.
Finlayson, Walter	27 August, 1834.
Fishbourne, E. E. . . .	3 August, 1835 (on leave).
Fyffe, Alexander G. . . .	3 August, 1835.
Grant, J. W. . . .	26 November, 1836.
Gurley, John	5 January, 1835.
Harris, James	30 July, 1835.
Hewitt, William	16 February, 1835.
Hill, Richard	1 April, 1836.
Jackson, Thomas W. . . .	5 November, 1837.
Kelly, Daniel	24 November, 1835.
Kent, H. . . .	17 November, 1834.
Lambert, R. S. . . .	5 May, 1835.
Lyon, Edward B. . . .	23 May, 1835.
Laidlaw, H. . . .	7 May, 1835.
Mahon, B. . . .	9 November, 1837.
Moresby, Henry	29 April, 1835.
Marlton, W. F. . . .	9 February, 1835.
O'Reilly, Philip	13 March, 1837.
Pringle, Hall. . . .	27 June, 1836.
Pryce, Samuel	20 November, 1834.
Ramsay, William	28 February, 1834.
Ricketts, S. R. . . .	6 September, 1836.
Walsh, H. . . .	25 February, 1835.
Willis, George	1 September, 1835.
Woolfrys, John	27 September, 1835.

(No. 237.)

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B., to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

King's House, 11th August, 1841.

WITH reference to your Lordship's Despatch No. 214, of the 23rd April, I have the honour to submit the enclosed copy of a letter from the manager of the Jamaica Silk Company.

No. 5.

July 27, 1841.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

C. T. METCALFE.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 5.

Sir,

Metcalfs Ville, 27th July, 1841.

THE copy of the communication of Mr. Burke of Montserrat was duly received.

Enclosure in No. 5.

I have long been aware of the necessity of wintering silk worm eggs. And in cases where we have been desirous of reproducing from the eggs of the same season in the United States, we have placed them on the ice. Our eggs are now at the ice house in Kingston, from whence we shall withdraw them as we need them. You will please convey to his Excellency my thanks for his kindness and attention. I shall be most happy to afford any desired information on the subject of silk growing, and to receive any notice of information from Montserrat or elsewhere connected with the subject, as it is one of importance to Jamaica. I am happy to be able to say that experience has more than confirmed my anticipation of entire success in raising silk for export from Jamaica. Our company is progressing steadily, and in due time (a few months) will export the first silk, to be followed by a crop per month, as the trees increase in strength.

Respectfully,

(Signed)

SAMUEL WHITMARSH,
Manager Jamaica Silk Company.

To Captain Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

JAMAICA.

(No. 234.)

No. 6.

No. 6.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir. C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B., to Lord JOHN RUSSELL, dated King's House, 2nd August, 1841.

For Lord John Russell's Despatch 26th April, No. 217 vide Papers relative to the West Indies, 1841, Part II. Jamaica, page 238.

WITH reference to your Lordship's Despatch of the 26th April, No. 217, I have the honour to submit some explanatory remarks on the Acts of the Jamaica Legislature therein noticed.

2. The Act relating to masters and servants. My former silence respecting this Act must have been owing to its being a revival of a law which had previously been confirmed by the Crown. It was supposed to be an improvement on the expired law, and a necessary measure. It was framed in nearly the same words as the English Act 4th Geo. IV., cap. 34, sec. 3. The supposed improvements on the former Act are that by the present, the contract to serve must be in writing, or must have been entered into before a credible witness. By the old Act any proof of contract was admissible. Further, that by the present Act two justices must adjudicate on the complaint. By the former, one justice was sufficient. There are other laws which render a master liable to punishment for ill using a servant. In the present a power is given to the justices to award wages due, and to cancel the contract. The right of appeal to the Chairman of Quarter Sessions is undoubted, and has been resorted to and admitted. This Act as it originally passed the Assembly, was a transcript of the expired law of the island, 5th Will. IV. cap. 2, comprising clauses giving power to the justices to dissolve the articles of apprenticeship, if under the circumstances of the case they thought proper so to do, and also investing them with authority to compel the payment of arrears of wages, or of any allowance they might consider due to the servant, by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the master. But as the justices are vested with precisely similar powers under the 55 Geo. III., cap. 19, the council returned the Bill to the assembly amended by striking out those clauses, conceiving them to be superfluous. It is probable that both branches of the legislature were of opinion that as the social system of the island was gradually assuming a new position it was inexpedient to pass any permanent enactment without further experience; and it may be expected that in the approaching session a law will be framed more defined in its provisions, and free from the objections to which the present Act is open.

No. 3389.

3. The election law was framed I am informed, as nearly as circumstances would admit, on the model of the Reform Bill, and the necessity of some such law in the present state of society is said to be strongly felt throughout the island.

No. 3394.

4. The form prescribed, and the restrictions imposed by the 12th clause of the Act for regulating the apprenticeship of minors upon appeals to the Quarter Sessions, are a transcript of a British statute on the same subject, and the same restrictions and forms are to be found in other British Acts, giving a right of appeal to the Quarter Sessions. As either party may exercise this right it is apprehended that where the master is the appellant, injustice may arise unless some order of proceeding be prescribed, and some limitation fixed to the period within which the appeal may be prosecuted. But if the apprehension of injustice to the other party from this clause predominate, it will most probably be repealed; for I fully believe that the Jamaica legislature sincerely mean to dispense evenhanded justice to all, and to afford protection to the poor and ignorant.

No. 3398.

5. The Militia Law.—The repeal by this Act of the 7th Wm. IV. cap. 37, which had been disallowed, must have been an oversight, the validity of a disallowance by the Crown being unquestioned. The 90th, 92nd, and 93rd clauses are similar to those of all former Acts having the same object, and it does not appear that objections existed to them on previous occasions. It is not to be expected that the members of the Assembly will voluntarily relinquish the long established right to be of councils of war. Their power is much qualified by the authority vested in the governor, who alone can summon a council of war, acting by the advice of the Privy Council, and when martial law is proclaimed, alone directs all the details, and is responsible for its operation. The representatives of the people conceive that they are entitled to a voice in a measure which entails upon their constituents great expenses, the suspension of all public business, and very irksome duties. It is not admitted here that the share occupied by members

as in other constitutions, by the confidence of such a body, and who are thence enabled successfully to appeal to it whenever the emergency of the moment may have called upon the Government to act with more than ordinary energy. Here the executive authority acts on his own responsibility. It might be extremely detrimental to the public service, were the grounds on which he acted made known at the moment, and when he afterwards applied to the representative body, he might apply to a body of men ignorant of the purpose which had called for measures of unwonted energy, and irritated at the result, and his proceedings might be canvassed with a freedom which, although consistent with the independent character of a representative Assembly might be derogatory to his dignity, and inconsistent with any future assumption of the same responsibility. Councils of war are convened for the purpose of advising the proclamation of martial law, and thereby entailing a very heavy expense on the country, as well as suspending during its operation the functions of ordinary legislation. Hence it is argued not to be contrary to the principles of the constitution that the representatives of the people who are to pay should have a voice in sanctioning the expenditure. As the law now stands, the executive decides upon the propriety of convening the council of war, but the responsibility of incurring the expense of martial law is shared with the other branches of the Legislature, so that on the one hand the colony is protected from the incurring of a heavy expenditure through the caprice or timidity of a governor, and on the other the executive, being sole arbiter of the propriety of entertaining the measure, is, when it is adopted, fortified by the concurrence of the majority of those most implicated in the results. Hence, any sudden emergency is provided for without any individual responsibility being incurred, without any violent inroad upon the law, and without any consequent necessity of resorting to the Legislature for retrospective indemnity. The necessity of the concurrence of the members of the Assembly may operate as a wholesome check, for they are not likely wantonly to advocate a measure which places absolute power in the hands of the executive. An enactment regarding martial law may not be in place in a Bill regulating the militia, and might be fully as well provided for by a distinct law, but it has hitherto been always embodied in the militia law, and has been confirmed by the Crown in that shape. The point is now merely theoretical, and not likely to be of any practical importance; but I apprehend that the agitation of it would produce a difference with the House of Assembly.

6. Your Lordship's remark on the Act in amendment of the Criminal Law was on the receipt of your despatch communicated to the Attorney-general. The amendments in the Criminal Code have been introduced in conformity with similar amendments in the mother country, and it is understood that they meet with the approbation of the judges, and of the chairmen of Quarter Sessions, to whom any defect in those laws would first become perceptible.

No. 3404.

7. Public-Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.—The former Acts regulating those institutions placed the management and control in the hands of certain members of the Assembly, and the churchwardens of certain parishes. The powers vested in these Commissioners were unlimited, and their management uncertain and unsatisfactory. As those institutions are maintained at the expense of the whole island, and are open to patients from any part of it, the Assembly thought it right to take the management into the hands of a committee of their own body. It would be difficult to persuade the Assembly that they are usurping powers which ought to be exercised by the executive authority. It would be a novelty, as the local constitution has long stood, to transfer those powers to the Government, and the exercise of them by the executive would tend to bring that authority more frequently into collision with the representatives of the people. The power given to the Commissioners of sending destitute persons off the Island was in order to exempt such destitute persons from the delay and expense which other Acts of the Island impose on all persons quitting it, namely, compelling them to go through certain forms, and to obtain a ticket of permission from the Governor, without which masters of vessels are prohibited from taking them. Destitute persons are by this Act exempt from these forms, and their return to their own country facilitated. It may be confidently assumed that, as it was never intended, so it will never happen that any persons will be sent off the Island under this Act without their own consent. They could always prevent it by the operation of other laws. With regard to the power vested in the Committee to confiscate the property of persons dying intestate in the hospital, and to whose estates no administration may be taken out, there is no prohibition to their estates being administered by relatives

No. 3410.

JAMAICA.

or friends, and it seems to be only in the absence of an administration that the law declares what is to be done with the property. With respect to lunatics, the law authorises in the absence of relatives or friends, two justices to direct the churchwarden of the parish, to which an insane person belongs, to dispose of so much of his property, or to receive from annual rents belonging to him, so much as shall be only sufficient for his maintenance, removal, and clothing, accounting for the same at the next meeting of the justices and vestry of such parish. The right of friends and relatives to take charge of insane persons is undoubted, and clearly allowed by the law. By the Act repealed, which has been on the statute book since 1776, the members of Assembly of Kingston, Port Royal, and St. Catherine, with the churchwardens of these parishes, were appointed Commissioners, with power to establish rules, inflict punishments, and incidentally appoint officers. With this Act before them, objectionable on account of the very general terms in which it was couched, the Legislature deemed it advisable to remove the jurisdiction exercised by a few members of Assembly, responsible to no one for the exercise of that jurisdiction, to the Commissioners of Accounts; and also in so doing to define with precision the duties devolved on, and the powers vested in, that body. The new law, therefore, transfers the authority vested in a few of the members of the Assembly nominally to the whole body in their capacity of Commissioners of Accounts, but really to a Committee composed of such members as ordinarily reside, or may occasionally be on business, in Spanish Town, Kingston, and the neighbouring parishes; and is not considered as extending to new cases, the system by which the Assembly are considered to have already acquired a large share of the proper duties of the executive Government. The Committee appointed under the new law are, under the 18th clause, authorized to draw 10,000*l.* for the purposes of the Act, and by the same clause they are called on to lay their accounts every three months before the Commissioners of Accounts. This body has always for a series of years exercised the right of auditing the public accounts, and in the absence of any functionary in the colony corresponding to the Lords of the Treasury, or public auditors forming a component part of the ministry responsible to the House of Commons, it is supposed that no men can be better or more constitutionally fitted for examining into the due and faithful expenditure of the public money than those to whom the people have entrusted the power of raising it. For a wary and vigilant exercise of this duty they are responsible to the people in the same manner as the House of Commons are responsible to their constituents. Another portion of the law is objected to as asserting the principle that the employers of labourers are responsible for the expense of their medical treatment in the hospital, and it is contended that if this principle be recognized the independent rights of the labourer are impaired. It is assumed that these objections apply to the 9th and 10th clauses, and it is urged in reply, that although by the first of these clauses the labourer cannot be admitted into the hospital until his employer shall have given security for the payment of the hospital dues, still this does not necessarily cast the liability upon such employer. The words of the enactment are more comprehensive than would seem from the objections stated, for they embrace seamen and all hired servants whatsoever, and the enactment is intended as a protection to those classes, and not as any impediment to the perfect enjoyment of their liberty. Such an idea did not, I believe, enter the mind of the Legislature at the time of passing the enactment. The clauses in question were introduced to prevent the inundation of the public hospital with sick from all quarters, and the lavishing of the funds. The utility of the institution must obviously be diminished without some check. The proviso at the end of the 9th clause allows the admission of persons out of employ, and the evil anticipated from this clause is not, I conceive, likely to occur. The powers of examining witnesses on oath, and of inflicting summary punishment are vested in the managing Committee or any justice of the peace, and it will most probably be found in practice, that should the members of the managing Committee not be in the commission of the peace, neither power would be exercised without the intervention of a justice. It is not supposed that any clause but the 7th gives to the dispenser, matron, or purveyor, the power of inflicting summary punishment, and the only power vested in those functionaries by that clause is that of im-

fiction to the use of the public of the property of an intestate, upon whose estate no administration has been taken out, and authorizing justices summarily to dispose of property belonging to lunatics are not likely practically to be of any importance, as the poor and destitute are the parties most likely to be the inmates of these institutions. There probably would be no difficulty in removing these clauses, if it were deemed essential to apply to the Legislature on the subject.

11. In the Acts to which your Lordship has objected on account of their granting powers to Committees of the House of Assembly, which ought to be exercised by the executive authority, there is no instance of recent encroachment on the prerogative of the Crown. In the Militia Bill the share in councils of war, vested in members of the Assembly, is no innovation. It is a long established privilege, and the abolition of it would be an innovation on the part of the Crown. In the Hospital and Asylum Bill the powers granted to the Commissioners of Accounts are not taken from the executive, but are transferred from a committee consisting chiefly of members of the Assembly to another composed wholly of them. In the Tax Bill the power of assessment is transferred from the parish vestries to assessors appointed by the Commissioners of Accounts, and acting under rules and principles fixed for their guidance. In both of those transfers the change appears to me to be practically an improvement as leading to a more regular and more efficient accomplishment of the object in view.

12. I am not advocating the carrying on of executive administration by large boards or committees. I should prefer the greater efficiency of individual agency and responsibility. Neither do I mean to argue in favour of executive administration by legislative bodies, which is contrary to the prevalent, and no doubt the most correct theory of government. Nevertheless this system in Jamaica has its advantages. It obtains the confidence of the constituency in the executive administration exercised by their representatives, and it prevents collision between the executive and legislative authorities. It is locally a convenience, and affords some facility in the executive administration, not, however, without the defect inherent in the system of administration by boards and committees. So far as it centralizes and consolidates administration by transferring it from various parochial authorities acting without union to one consistent body, it is, I conceive, a decided and considerable improvement. And this advantage is obtained without any consequence, so far as I can perceive, injurious to the executive authority. The real power of the House of Assembly consists in its power as the representative branch of the Legislature. If it exercised that power against the Government it would most probably be during a fervour of popular discontent, which would be equally felt by the constituencies and parochial bodies, who would exercise any power in their hands in the same spirit. If the constituencies did not share in the same feeling an appeal to the constituencies would remove the hostile Assembly. But the power of the latter, as antagonist to the government, would be scarcely increased by the degree of executive administration which it exercises, and whether that be exercised by the constituency or by their representatives appears to me to be of little consequence to the executive authority, excepting so far as concentration may be beneficial by effecting uniformity and efficiency.

13. It would certainly be a more gratifying state of things if such confidence were reposed by the Legislature, and the constituency in the executive government as would induce them to throw every part of executive administration entirely into its hands; but it will require a long period of mutual cordiality to produce this feeling.

16. With reference to the remarks and sentiments herein submitted, and adverting to the several Acts noticed in your Lordship's Despatch, I proceed to state the course which I propose to pursue, and that which I would respectively recommend in each instance respectively.

17. Masters and Servants.—This Act expiring at the end of the year, it may be expected that an improved Act will be passed during the approaching session. I shall either communicate to the Legislature your Lordship's objections to the Act at the commencement of the session, or await your further instructions, as may seem most conducive to that end. Until I receive your further instructions I shall not assent to the renewal of the present Act without amendments, and in the meanwhile I shall endeavour to effect the passing of such an Act as may be likely to obtain your approval.

No. 3402.

18. The Election Law.—Your Lordship's intention to reserve your decision until a sufficient time shall have elapsed for bringing the efficacy of the Act to the test of actual experiment appears to me to indicate the wisest course that can be

No. 3389.

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No. 3394.

pursued on a measure of such important consequence. It also seems to me that the same course might be advantageously followed on all enactments, respecting which your Lordship may entertain doubts which have not occurred to any branch of the local Legislature.

No. 3398.

19. Apprenticeship of Minors.—I shall lay before the Legislature your Lordship's recommendation regarding this Act, unless the explanation submitted satisfy your Lordship that the amendment proposed is unnecessary.

No. 3404.

20. Militia Law.—I shall await your Lordship's further instructions on this Act, because I am convinced that the alterations proposed will be regarded as invasions of the Crown on the established rights of the representatives of the people; and further because there appears to me to be no necessity for incurring this ground of dissatisfaction; the clauses, objected to, besides having been repeatedly confirmed by the Crown, being harmless in themselves, and owing to the present state of the country not likely ever to be of any consequence.

No. 3410.

21. Criminal Law Act.—The reply of the Attorney-General to the reference made to him on this subject shall be submitted when received.

22. Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum Act.—I hope that the explanations submitted on this Act may prove satisfactory. I shall await your Lordship's further instructions regarding it.

24. I trust that I may receive your further instructions on the several Acts in question either before or soon after the commencement of the legislative session, which will take place probably in the last week of October.

(No. 4.)

No. 7.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B., dated Downing-street, 27th September, 1841,

No. 7.

I HAVE received your Despatch of 2nd August, No. 234, addressed to my predecessor; and before I proceed to the consideration of the Acts of the Legislature to which it refers, I am happy to be able to express my concurrence in much of the principle which it lays down. In resuming my official connexions with the island over which you preside, it is with great satisfaction that I find that, under your administration of its affairs, animosities and jealousies have been gradually subsiding, and that the Legislature, acting harmoniously with you, is directing its attention zealously and most usefully to the improvement of its institutions, and to the adaptation of the laws of the island to the altered state of society. It will be my earnest endeavour to maintain and increase the good feeling now happily growing up between the local Legislature and the executive; and in considering the enactments which they may submit for Her Majesty's approval, I shall be prepared not only to examine their details without distrust as to their motives, but to give them, on all occasions in which I find it possible, credit for being actuated by sincere and honest intentions, even when I find myself unable to concur in the measures which they advise. It will not be on trifling grounds that I shall ever advise Her Majesty to disallow the enactments of the local legislature. I shall comment upon them in no unfriendly tone or disposition; and, on the other hand, I shall hope to be met by the Legislature in the same spirit, with a willingness to amend defects which it may from time to time be my duty to point out to them.

It is in this sense that I proceed to the consideration of the laws which form the subject of your Despatch, in answer to the observations contained in that of my predecessor of the 26th of April, No. 217.

Masters and Servants.—I am aware that, in answer to some of the objections raised by my predecessor to this Act, you state, and state correctly, that in some of the points to which he objected the Act is borrowed from a British statute, 4 Geo. IV., c. 34. But you will not fail to perceive that this is a subject, of all others, in which it is desirable that the Legislature should have no possible ground for misconstruction, and that an enactment, liable to no abuse in a country where the relations between master and servant have been long established and are well understood, may require some modification when applied to a community where those relations have been so recently substituted for those of owner and slave. This observation applies especially to the duration of contracts. I have no suspicion on my own mind that the absence of any limit as to time was intended to act prejudicially towards the servant: but to avoid all cavil I recommend that, in the Act which it will be necessary to introduce, contracts for service should be limited to a year; or, if entered into for a longer period, that a provision should be introduced

For Lord John Russell's Despatch, 26th April, 1841, No. 217, *vide* Papers relative to the West Indies, 1841, Part II., Jamaica, page 238.

No. 3402.

giving an annual opportunity to either party to annul the contract on giving a month's notice. This will enable the engagement to continue, by tacit agreement, without the necessity of entering into a fresh contract; while, at the same time, it will effectually obviate the objections which might be urged against a more extended term: I am also of opinion that where contracts are not in writing, (which, however, is the preferable mode,) there should be two witnesses to the terms; when they are in writing, I think it desirable, though not essential, that a form of contract should be provided by the Act itself.

I am inclined to be satisfied with your assurance that other statutes in force provide adequate means for rendering a master liable to punishment for ill-using a servant; and to believe that there is not in the Act, coupled with the statute 55 Geo. III., c. 19, the want of reciprocity on this head which my predecessor apprehended. And I do not doubt the correctness of your view that the right of appeal to the chairman of Quarter Sessions exists independently of, and is not affected by, the Act now under consideration. Still, when such large discretionary powers are necessarily given to magistrates deciding summarily, it is important that no doubt should be suffered to exist on this head; and I recommend that the provisions of the 55th Geo. III., c. 19, should be consolidated with those of the Act now under discussion, and that the right of appeal should be specifically recognized in the new Act.

No. 3389.

Election Law.—The absence of any further information on the subject of this law, either from the attorney-general of your government, or from any other quarter, would, at all events, scarcely leave me any alternative but that of adopting the course taken by my predecessor, in suspending his decision upon it until its efficacy shall have been tried by the test of actual experiment. I am, however, glad to be relieved from all doubt as to the propriety of this course, by finding that it meets with your cordial approbation.

No. 3394.

Apprenticeship of Minors.—The explanation afforded by you as to the model on which the clause objected to by my predecessor was framed, leaves no doubt on my mind as to the intentions of the Assembly in adopting the provisions of this Act in the form they now bear. Adverting, however, to that difference between the state of society in Great Britain and in the West India Islands to which I have before referred, I think that, in lieu of the form of procedure provided by the Bill, it would be advisable to adopt one on the principle of that which, as stated by my predecessor, I understand has been already tried and found to succeed in respect to appeals in the Island of Barbados.

No. 3398.

Militia Law.—Notwithstanding the respect with which I regard all opinions proceeding from yourself, were the question of conferring upon members of the Assembly the power of attending councils of war now for the first time raised, I should concur with my predecessor in thinking that such power ought not to be conceded to them. In the reasons adduced by you in support of this enactment, you argue that, as "councils of war are convened for the purpose of advising the proclamation of martial law, and thereby entailing a very heavy expense on the country, as well as suspending, during its operation, the functions of ordinary legislation, it is not contrary to the principles of the constitution that the representatives of the people who are to pay should have a voice in sanctioning the expenditure." To the abstract principle here laid down I readily assent; but in your application of them to the present case I cannot concur. The responsibility of adopting such extreme measures as are involved in the proclamation of martial law, I think should either rest upon the executive solely, or upon the Legislature as a whole. The intervention of individual members of the Assembly in such cases (besides that, upon a similar plea, it might be extended to many cases in addition to that now under discussion) only tends to take off responsibility from those whose official stations make them the proper persons to bear it, without giving that authoritative sanction to their proceedings which the decision of the Assembly as a body is entitled to carry with it. And though no doubt the consequences of proclaiming martial law are, as you justly observe, to entail a heavy expense on the country, it is one of those sudden charges which I think ought to be incurred by the executive on its own responsibility, and subject to the wholesome check of being liable to be disallowed if incurred with wanton precipitation.

Although, however, I feel myself obliged to dissent from this portion of your reasons in support of this Bill, I yield to other considerations suggested by you; and, bearing in mind that this is merely the re-enactment of a law already often renewed and confirmed by the Crown without objection, I am sensible that, in the absence of some change of circumstances calling for the innovation, were I now to

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advise Her Majesty to disallow it, I should only seem to evince a distrust of the present Assembly, which, as I have already stated, I am rejoiced to be able to say I do not feel.

No. 3404.

Criminal Law Act.—On this I await the reply of the attorney-general of your government to the reference made to him.

No. 3410.

Public Hospitals and Lunatic Asylum.—The spirit of my preceding remarks will, I think, sufficiently guard me against the imputation of wishing lightly to interfere with the enactments of the local legislature, and you will therefore believe that, in adhering as I do to my predecessor's objections to this Bill, it is only from the conviction that it involves a principle which I consider decidedly objectionable. That principle is the transference of the expenditure of a large sum from an inferior body, and one, to some extent at least, accountable to others, to a body not liable to be called to account by any one. Not that I would be understood as sanctioning what you appear to suppose to have been the view of my predecessor as to transferring the management of this expenditure to the executive. On the contrary, my object would be rather to continue it as at present, in persons having local knowledge, and whose residence in the neighbourhood may admit of their devoting to it the requisite time and attention. In announcing to you, therefore, that I have been compelled to advise Her Majesty to disallow this Act, I would suggest to you the propriety of stating such to be the view which I take on the subject, and that I think that if the present management of this hospital be found defective, it would be advisable, instead of transferring it to the general Legislature, to amend its defects on the principle of retaining a local management, and of establishing a complete accountability in those entrusted with the control of the finances.

In the event of a new Act being passed, committing the management of this hospital to any inferior body, it is not likely the Assembly will entrust to them the powers conferred by the present Bill on a committee of their own members: and without knowing to what description of persons, or under what control the management may be committed, it would be premature to offer any suggestions. I may, however, observe, that though I perceive the provisions for enforcing internal discipline to be merely re-enacted from Statute 17 Geo. III., c. 31, I think that they are exceedingly stringent; and that, as from inquiries I have caused to be made, I find no such exist in hospitals in this country, expulsion of the patients being the only punishment allowed under their regulations; it might be well to consider whether the same penalty may not be found sufficiently severe in the hospital in Jamaica.

With respect to the motives for rendering employers liable by the Act in the manner specified in your Despatch for the expenses of attendance on their labourers and servants, I think your explanation satisfactory.

In conclusion, it only remains for me to express my confident expectation that in again considering the various matters to which I have felt it my duty to direct the attention of the Legislature of Jamaica, Her Majesty's Government will be met by them in that calm and dispassionate spirit which must afford the best security for carrying on the business of Legislation to the mutual satisfaction of all parties, and to the advancement of the welfare of the important colony which is committed to your charge.

(No. 239.)

No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord JOHN RUSSELL to the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B.

For Sir C. T. Metcalfe's Despatch 10th and 28th March, *vide* Papers relative to the West Indies, 1841, Part II. Jamaica, page 245.

Sir,

Downing-street, 23rd August, 1841.

WITH reference to your Despatches Nos. 202 and 208 of the 10th and 28th March, submitting samples of a kind of hemp made from the stalk of the plantain and banana tree in Jamaica, and specimens of other kinds made from other plants in the island, I now enclose for your information the copy of a letter from the Board of Trade, with a report from the master rope-maker at Deptford as to the quality of the sample.

I am sorry to find that this report is not favourable.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. RUSSELL.

The Right Hon. Sir C. T. Metcalfe, Bart., G.C.B.

&c.

&c.

&c.

August 19.

Enclosure in No. 8.

JAMAICA.

Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade,
Whitehall, 19th August, 1841.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 12th May last, transmitting samples of hemp from Jamaica, I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to inclose to you for Lord John Russell's information copy of a letter from the Admiralty, with a report of the master rope-maker at Deptford as to the quality of the said samples which are herewith returned.

I am, &c.

JOHN GEORGE SHAW LEFEVRE.

James Stephen, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Admiralty, 17th August, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send herewith for the information of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade the copy of a report from the master rope-maker at Deptford, upon the samples of hemp produced in Jamaica, contained in your letter of the 30th of last month, and which are herewith returned.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

John George Shaw Lefevre, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Deptford Yard, Ropery, 13th August, 1841.

I BEG to state that I have examined the samples of the plantain, banana, and Penguin plants, and the fibres appear weak and not suitable for making cordage for the equipment of shipping. There is not enough to try an experiment either in yarn or rope, but from trials I have made with the fibres of those descriptions of plants, I have found them weaker than Russian hemp, and much fouler, absorbing but a small quantity of tar, and much weaker after being tarred or wet.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. CHAPMAN.

J. Parker, Esq.,
&c. &c.

(No. 243.)

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B.,
to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

King's House, 10th September, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report on the subject of your Lordship's Circular Instructions of the 25th April, relating to the support of schools in the West Indies.

No. 9.

2. The Bishop of Jamaica is of opinion that the national schools in his diocese could not be carried on if the annual Parliamentary grant were withdrawn, and that the negroes are not yet prepared to contribute that support which he thinks they ought to do, and in the course of a few years will do.

3. The statement furnished by the general superintendent of Wesleyan schools is so creditable to the Wesleyans, that I think it due to them to report it at length. The services of that exemplary body in this island are beyond calculation valuable.

	£.	s.	d.
Amount of school expenditure for the Wesleyan Day Schools in Jamaica, for the year ending 31st December, 1840	3,774	6	2½

Amount of receipts from pupils by weekly contributions	700	5	5
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Amount of contributions by friends	133	16	2
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Amount of cost to Wesleyan body	2,940	4	7½
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From this amount of £2,940 4s. 7½d. must be deducted the proportion (which cannot be ascertained in Jamaica) of £800, assigned by Her Majesty's Government for the support of all the Mission Schools in the West Indies for 1840.

Number of schools for which building aid has been received	9
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Number without aid	16
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Number of scholars attached	2,009
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4. The agents of the Scottish Missionary Society receiving aid from the Government grant, report that they are satisfied that with the diminished aid which it is proposed to continue for a limited number of years, their schools may safely be

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left to their own resources, with the aid of the churches with which they may be connected.

5. The superintendent of the Mico Charity Schools reports that he has not the least reason to expect that any of the schools will be continued by the negroes themselves, or their abandonment by the trustees of the Mico Charity; and expresses his opinion that the negro population of this island are not at present, and will not be for a much longer period than the time specified in your Lordship's Circular Despatch for the cessation of the Parliamentary grant, in a position to provide for the education of their children without considerable aid from the public funds of the colony, or from those of other societies.

6. It may be observed that the National Schools and the Mico Schools are those which have received the greatest aid from public grants, and it is a natural consequence that in these institutions there has been a more general gift of education gratis. Persons who have hitherto received this benefit for their children without cost, may not be readily inclined to pay for it hereafter, and all these institutions may fall off unless they be taken up and supported by the colony. Those institutions which have been accustomed to the least aid will be the least affected by its withdrawal, and there are numerous schools in the island respecting which, as they have never derived any support from the Parliamentary grant, there can be no fear from its cessation.

7. The number of schools supported entirely by the contributions of the negro population would argue that the self support of such institutions is not impossible; but, for the reason above stated, I do not expect that the decrease of funds in the National and Mico Schools will be remedied by negro contributions. It seems more probable, that unless sustained by grants from the colony they will fail, and that the pupils will either cease to attend school altogether or go to other schools that may be established in their neighbourhood; and those being chiefly under Dissenting teachers, the ranks of the Dissenters may thereby be swelled, and the congregations of the Church of England be diminished.

8. Whether the colony will supply the place of the mother country and restore the aid which is to be withdrawn, I cannot venture positively to predict. There is no want of liberality in the Legislature, and there is a desire to uphold the established Church; but the finances may not be in a state to encourage additional expenditure on any ground, and there will always be a considerable jealousy of the mother country's throwing off on the colony any expense which it has itself before borne.

9. The most likely method of inducing the colony to undertake this additional expenditure is to let it be a spontaneous act; and unless I receive contrary instructions from your Lordship, I shall content myself with laying before the Legislature in the approaching Session a copy of your Lordship's Circular Despatch of the 25th April, leaving it to them to originate any measures that the gradual withdrawal of the Parliamentary grant, and the probable consequences of that proceeding, may suggest.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. T. METCALFE.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 30.)

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 19th December, 1841.

No. 10.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 243, of the 10th September, in reference to the probable effect of the withdrawal of the Parliamentary assistance towards negro education.

I am satisfied that this withdrawal ought to take effect gradually, according to the course which has been adopted; and I entirely concur in your view of the proper mode of proceeding as to any assistance which may be required from the local Legislature.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

The Right Hon. Sir C. T. Metcalfe, Bart., G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

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(No. 1.)

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B.,
to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

King's House, 27th October, 1841.

No. 11.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Circular Despatch of the 6th September, and beg permission to thank your Lordship for the highly gratifying tenor of its contents, and to assure you that all my communications shall be cordially guided by the spirit which it enjoins.

2. It is due to your Lordship that I should state, without delay, that I have always wished to return to England whenever the state of Jamaica would allow me to do so without a dereliction of public duty. The grounds on which I conceive that the time is not far distant at which I may consider myself at liberty to solicit your Lordship's sanction for my retirement from the office which I have the honour to hold shall be submitted as soon as the pressure of business attendant on the opening of our Legislative Session shall have subsided.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

C. T. METCALFE.

(No. 22.)

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 5th December, 1841.

No. 12.

I HAVE received your Despatch (No. 1) of the 27th October, in which you state that you contemplate at an early period your retirement from the Government of Jamaica.

I cannot receive this intimation without sincere regret, in which I am convinced the island will partake, in the event of your feeling yourself called upon to act on your present views.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

STANLEY.

The Right Hon. Sir C. T. Metcalfe, Bart., G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 2.)

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B., to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

King's House, 27th October, 1841.

No. 13.

I HAVE the honour to submit the accompanying copy of the speech delivered by me yesterday at the opening of the session of the General Assembly of this island.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

C. T. METCALFE.

Enclosure in No. 13.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL,

MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

I HAIL with pleasure the return of the season which enables me to see you again assembled, in order to unite your exertions for the good government of the island. The results of your arduous labours in the two last sessions, which have been highly appreciated by the Queen's Government, have left comparatively little, I trust, of an urgent nature to be provided for by new laws, beyond such as may be rendered necessary by the expiration of periodical Acts. Your proceedings, however, must at all times be of the greatest importance to the welfare of the community; and you will probably take advantage of the opportunity to accomplish such improvements in existing statutes as may appear to you to be desirable.

I have several communications to lay before you, on the part of Her Majesty's ministers, which, I have no doubt, will receive your cordial attention.

The birth of the prince royal, since our last meeting, has gladdened the hearts of all the subjects of our gracious Sovereign; and I am sure that none have participated more loyally than yourselves in the universal joy excited by this auspicious event.

Our island, I grieve to say, has been sorely afflicted during this last year, by extensive

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Enclosure in No. 13.

JAMAICA.

commercial distress—by extraordinary drought—and by sickness and mortality raging to an uncommon degree throughout all classes of the community.

The prospect is now, in some respects, more cheering; for, by the blessing of Almighty Providence, the late rains have produced abundant crops; and it is expected that, in the approaching season, our staple exports will considerably exceed those of late years. Agricultural societies are being extended over the whole island; the silk company, and the copper mine company, are proceeding, I understand, with favourable prospects. Cotton has been produced sufficiently to show, that if it were not excluded by devotion to more valuable articles, or by insufficiency of labour, it might become an additional source of prosperity. The cultivation of tobacco on a large scale, I hear, is about to commence; and the discovery of a method by which the supply of one of our staple exports may be greatly augmented, promises a large increase to the wealth of the agricultural community; and, if the prospect be realized, will entitle the inventor (a gentleman recently come among us,) to public gratitude. The relations between employers and labourers appear to have arranged themselves on the natural basis of mutual interests. The want of continuous labour is still complained of in some districts, but not so generally as before. This want is not surprising in a country where the population is scanty, and where the labouring class support themselves in great measure by the cultivation of their own grounds. The establishment of small freeholds among this class, and the clearance and cultivation of lands hitherto, or for a long time, waste, are making continual and rapid strides, and without removing the holders entirely from the labour market, must tend to secure the comfort of a large portion of the people. The ease, independence, and other advantages enjoyed by the labouring population, are not, I believe, surpassed by those of the same class in any country on the face of the earth; and although to those causes must be partly ascribed the want of continuous labour, we cannot but rejoice at so much good, and are bound to bear cheerfully its attendant difficulties. The general good conduct and orderly habits of the people, and their improved feeling towards their employers, are just grounds for unqualified congratulation.

The views of all who take an interest in the general prosperity of the island, are still eagerly directed towards immigration, as the only apparent mode of obtaining such an addition to the labouring population, as is requisite for the adequate cultivation of the land, and indispensable for the development of its dormant resources. It is a happy reflection that immigration may take place to any probable extent, without interfering with the benefits possessed by the present inhabitants. You have made most liberal provision to promote this important object. The success of the measures adopted has hitherto been limited, but in some respects valuable. There has been no deficiency of zeal on the part of the officers employed in the carrying of your intentions into effect. The agent-general in the island has exerted himself indefatigably. His Report will be laid before you. I have every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the sub-agents, as far as it has come under my observation. The Commissioner deputed to North America and Great Britain, after making such arrangements in these countries as seemed calculated to advance the intended purpose, proceeded to the coast of Africa, and laid the foundation of an emigration of free Africans from Sierra Leone, which promises to be highly beneficial, for there seems to be no doubt that Africans are the most suitable labourers for field cultivation in this climate. Mr. Barclay's Reports will be communicated to you, and will furnish ample evidence of the energy, ability, and judgment with which he has performed the duties of his mission.

Several importations of immigrants from Great Britain and Ireland have taken place, with various results. In some instances, I understand they are doing well; in others, I am sorry to remark, disappointment and discontent, whether reasonable or otherwise, have embittered their arrival among us; while, in many cases, sickness and death, although not perhaps excessive, with reference to the general unhealthiness of the year, have cast a gloom over the commencement of this important experiment. There is, unquestionably, abundance of fertile and uncultivated land in this island, on which a large European population might be located with perfect security to their health and comfort, and with great benefit to the public interests; but this can only be the work of time. As an immediate addition to the labouring population, the introduction of Europeans can be but partially useful; and the result of the experiment of this year has not been generally encouraging. I have, therefore, thought it right, as far as depends on me, to restrain the indiscriminate importation of European immigrants, and to limit the future supply to such numbers as can be accommodated immediately after their arrival, according to previous arrangements, in suitable locations, in a healthy climate, either on the properties of individuals, or in the public villages, which it is proposed to establish. Unfortunately, European immigrants are apt to prefer the vicinity of the large towns, for the most part situated in the lowlands, where the climate is least favourable to the European constitution, and are therefore too likely to suffer, unless they can be taught to appreciate the value of a more healthy location, and to accommodate themselves to the mode of life which the interior of the island offers, and which in food, as well as in other respects, is different from that which they have been accustomed to prize. An opinion too appears to gain ground that the ordinary rate of wages for labour is not adequate to meet all the wants of an European, considering the cost of things which he and his family need or desire. On the whole, although I do not despair of the ultimate success of European immigration, I am of opinion, that, under existing circumstances, it will be liable to disappointment to all parties, except under peculiar

owing chiefly to the repeated illness of the officer whom it was the duty of the committee appointed for that work to consult and employ in the preliminary arrangements, and in the preparation of the requisite plans and estimates.

I informed you, at the opening of our last meeting, that the powers granted to me by the Prisons' Act of the preceding session had enabled me, in some degree, to remedy the defects of the existing prisons, by transferring prisoners from places of confinement, in which there could be no classification, to others better adapted for that purpose, and by assigning distinct prisons for different classes of prisoners. These arrangements were necessary as a substitute for the alteration of the several prisons, which could not be effected otherwise than by slow degrees, without an expense beyond what the public income could bear. One of the arrangements adopted was to reserve the county gaols for debtors and untried prisoners, there being no means on the criminal side for the separation of convicted prisoners from those untried, and to remove all of the convicted to the distinct prisons assigned exclusively for prisoners under sentence, and wherein they could be separately confined according to their classes. This arrangement was in force until recently, but is at present suspended, in consequence of doubts which appear to be entertained by the judges of its legality. These doubts seem to be founded on an impression that the law gives no more than the power of removal from one prison to another of the same denomination; and therefore that a prisoner removed from a county gaol can only be transferred to another county gaol. The power, so restricted, would be nugatory, there being no means in any county gaol for the separation of convicted from untried prisoners. This supposed limitation of the power appears to be suggested by an opinion, that a transfer from a county gaol to a district prison is an aggravation of punishment. This is not, in reality, a necessary consequence, for it can easily be avoided, and has certainly never been intended; but the removal may be so regarded by the parties affected by it; and as it has become necessary to lay the question before you, it is right that you should be made aware of the ground of objection. If you should deem it desirable to set apart the county gaols as separate places of confinement for any particular class of convicted offenders, you will, I have no doubt, determine to place either all or one of those prisons in a state which will, at least, allow the separation of sentenced from untried prisoners; for, unless that be done, or the power of removal hitherto exercised be continued and confirmed, the intermixture of those classes cannot be prevented, and the object of the Prison Acts must, in a great degree, be frustrated. No prisoner has been removed for any other purpose than classification, which while most of the prisons, and all the county gaols are in their present state, cannot be effected in any other manner. The first indication of doubt on this subject, in the minds of the judges, manifested itself in the sentiments expressed on the occasion of their remanding a prisoner to a county gaol, who had been thence removed to a district prison by my order. Their decision, in this instance, was founded on their opinion, that he had been removed in an illegal manner, or in other words, without sufficient formality, and did not determine the question whether removal in a manner conformable to their opinion would be legal or not. I sought to obtain their opinion on this point for my guidance; and finding that it would only be given in judgment on a case brought before them, I adopted proceedings with a view to arrive at it in that manner. The question was argued by counsel on both sides, but the judges have postponed their decision. I am consequently unable to lay the question before you otherwise than as one on which the judges are understood to entertain doubts. Those doubts I have considered it right to respect, a reference to you being near at hand; and I have, therefore, notwithstanding the embarrassments attending such a course, abstained from any further removal from the county gaols, until you could have an opportunity of declaring your intentions; and I have allowed the benefit of this suspension to the individual, who, having been previously removed, had been remanded by the judges on a point of form, while the doubts of the judges as to the power of removal have led to the intermixture of convicted and untried prisoners in the county gaols; their decision on the point of form, produces the same effect for a time in other prisons, whence the power of removal is fully recognized; as the law does not prescribe the form, I concluded that it was left to the discretion of the executive authority; and I adopted, with careful reference to the intent of the Act, that form which was not only the one in which all the orders of the governor are issued, excepting those for which special forms have been provided, but which was also the most effectual in its operation, as it enabled me, by a general order, to secure the removal of convicted criminals, immediately after their being taken to prisons, wherein no separation from untried prisoners was practicable. But the judges having declared that an order of the governor, signed by his secretary, is not an order of the governor, according to the meaning of the Prisons Act, and that the same order cannot effect the removal of more than one prisoner, it is now necessary that there be a separate order for the removal of each prisoner, and that every order be prepared in a technical form, and signed by the governor. Delay must therefore take place in the removal of every prisoner, varying in duration according to the distance of the prison from the seat of government, and increased by the tardiness of a weekly post. The time, in consequence, must be frequently considerable, during which males and females, convicted and untried prisoners, will be imprisoned together without the means of separation. As the only object of any removal is to prevent that intermixture, any impediment to the most speedy removal of criminals from prisons which have no means of separation, appears to me to be injurious. The power of the judges to construe the laws is unquestionable; and I have regulated my proceedings accordingly, but it is proper to apprise you of the consequences, in order that if you see fit, you may, in regulating the power of removal, define also the mode in which it is to be exercised, so that in my anxious endeavours to give effect to the intentions of the legislature, I may proceed on sure ground, without the danger of impediment to the public service from doubts or discordant opinions as to the meaning of the law.

JAMAICA.

MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSEMBLY.

I have every reason to be assured, from past experience, that you will provide the requisite supplies for the public service with your accustomed liberality, and with due regard to the state of our resources and the existing pressure of taxation.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL.

MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSEMBLY.

Delay occurs in the distribution of the Acts of each session, by which they are in operation long before they can be made known to the people, or placed in the hands of those who administer them. This is a subject of general complaint, and appears to be worthy of your consideration.

The state of the roads is another, which seems to deserve attention, as it may be possible, that without a larger outlay than the present, greater permanent benefit might be obtained by a more systematic use of the funds provided.

I am informed that, in some parts of the island, gaming is a spreading vice, which is producing demoralizing effects on the people. I therefore bring this subject to your notice.

I will not detain you longer from the important duties which await you,—your discharge of which will, I confidently expect, redound to your own honour, and promote the happiness of every class of the inhabitants of Jamaica.

(No. 4.)

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart.,
G.C.B., to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

King's House, 29th October, 1841.

No. 14.

I HAVE the honour to submit a specimen of Sea Island Cotton produced in Jamaica, for the most part cleaned, but a small portion in pod.

2. This is a sample of the produce of the first attempt to restore to Jamaica the cultivation of cotton; and it is expected that next year it will become an article of export. Mr. H. Gourgues has the merit of this undertaking.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

C. T. METCALFE.

(No. 38.)

No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to the Right Hon. Sir C. T.
METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 19th January, 1842.

No. 15.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 4, of the 29th October, forwarding a specimen of Sea Island Cotton produced in Jamaica, and I now transmit, for your information, an extract of an opinion of the committee of brokers of Liverpool on the sample submitted to their inspection.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

STANLEY.

The Right Hon. Sir C. T. Metcalfe, Bart., G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 15.

Sir,

Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade,
Whitehall, 17th January, 1842.

Enclosure in No. 15.

I AM directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to transmit to you, with reference to your letter of the 4th December last, and in order that the same may be laid before Lord Stanley, an extract of an opinion of the committee of brokers of Liverpool on the samples of cotton grown in Jamaica which were enclosed in your said letter.

I am, &c.

James Stephenson, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

JOHN GEORGE SHAW LEFEVRE.

(Extract.)

"The sample of cotton has been submitted to a committee of brokers, and here is their Report.

"Clean and well got up, but rather speckled with brown and dead bits. Staple rather uneven, but on the whole long and strong; worth to day 8d. to 8½d. per lb. If any quantity could be had as good and clean as this sample would be freely used at the above price."

(No. 8.)

No. 16.

JAMAICA.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir G. T. METCALFE, Bart.,
G.C.B., to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

King's House, 1st November, 1841.

IN a recent communication I intimated that I should take the earliest opportunity of submitting to your Lordship the grounds on which I considered myself to be justified in soliciting permission to retire from the government of Jamaica, and return to England at a period not far distant.

2. When the offer of the governorship of this island and its dependencies was conveyed to me my only inducement in accepting it was the hope of rendering some service to my country, by becoming instrumental in the reconciliation of the colony with the mother country.

3. That object was accomplished soon after my arrival by the good sense and good feeling of the colonists, who readily and cordially met the conciliatory disposition which it was my duty to evince towards them.

4. The next subject that most attracted my attention was the unsatisfactory feeling of the labouring population towards their employers. This has naturally subsided into a state more consistent with the relations of the parties, and there is no longer any ground of anxiety on that account.

5. Other dissensions in the community, which grew out of preceding circumstances, have either entirely, or in a great degree ceased, and order and harmony, with the exceptions which will occasionally occur in every state of society, may be said to prevail.

6. The reform of the judicial establishment was considered by Her Majesty's Government as an object of essential importance, and was likewise desired by the local Legislature. That measure has been carried into operation with every assurance of success, at a considerable cost to the island.

7. The improvement of the prisons was another object much desired by Her Majesty's Government. The local Legislature has co-operated zealously and liberally towards it. Means have been provided for its attainment to the utmost extent at present practicable. The reform of all the prisons is a work of too great expense to be performed at once, but it is in progress; and the realization of all that is desirable in the details of this interesting question is in a course of gradual accomplishment.

8. Many laws have been passed with a view to meet the change that has occurred in the social relations of the inhabitants of the colony, and to approximate the statutes of this country to those of England. Although the business of legislation must ever be one of incessant advancement, I am not aware of any peculiar matter immediately pressing that remains to be undertaken.

9. Of agricultural prosperity I cannot speak with any certainty, because it depends on prices at home and on circumstances which are not under local control; but the prospect as to the crop now on the ground, and the expected produce of the great staples for exportation is more promising than that of any season for many years past. New sources of wealth in the production of silk and cotton, and the extraction of copper have been called into action, but have not reached a state of certainty, and cannot therefore be regarded as securely established. The articles which yield most profit will naturally be those most cultivated, which is the reason, combined with the scantiness of population, why the exports of Jamaica are so few. Commercial interests have suffered, partly from over trading on excessive credits suddenly withdrawn, and partly from the disturbed state of affairs in the South American state of New Grenada; but it is supposed that the worst has passed, and that trade is likely to revive. These are matters which the executive government can hardly influence.

10. With respect to the labouring population, formerly slaves, but now perfectly free, and more independent than the same class in other free countries, I venture to say, that in no country in the world can the labouring population be more abundantly provided with the necessaries and comforts of life, more at their ease, or more secure from oppression than in Jamaica; and I may add that ministers of the Gospel for their religious instruction, and schools for the education of their children are established in all parts of the island with a tendency to constant increase, although the present reduction of the Mico schools is a temporary drawback.

11. Under all these circumstances, as the peculiar state of Jamaica at the time was my only inducement for coming here, and as I have never wished to remain longer than might seem to be necessary for the accomplishment of the important objects which presented themselves, I trust that the expression of my wish to be relieved will not be deemed inconsistent with the sense of duty that brought me to this post.

JAMAICA.

12. It is far from my intention to represent that there is not ample and noble employment left for my successors. There is a great field for continual improvement. The country has vast resources yet undeveloped. A larger population of Africans for labour in the low lands is requisite; and the establishment of a population of Europeans in the high lands is highly desirable. Capital, which in despair of adequate profit has been withdrawn, will require increasing enterprise and success to tempt it to resort hither. To secure and maintain the affection of the colony towards the mother country—to promote the welfare and prosperity of the island, and the happiness of its inhabitants, will form a task of high interest and importance, the progress of which cannot fail to be attended with heartfelt gratification, but its perfect fulfilment can only be the work of time.

13. Hoping that my retirement will have your Lordship's sanction, I take the liberty of adding that I should be glad to be relieved about the middle of April, as the voyage across the Atlantic is likely to be favourable at that season, and my arrival in England would probably take place at a time of the year better suited than the winter months to those who come from a tropical climate. Should there be any obstacle to the arrival of my successor at that period, and your Lordship would permit me to make over the government at such time as I might find most convenient to the Lieutenant-Governor, you may be assured, from Sir William Gomm's character, ability, judgment, and local knowledge, that no detriment to the public service could arise from that arrangement. In proposing with so much freedom these particular details for my personal convenience, I rely on your Lordship's indulgence; and beg leave at the same time to assure you that I shall cheerfully conform as in duty bound to any other that you may deem more expedient for the public service.

14. Anticipating your Lordship's assent to the main purpose of this communication, I beg permission to request that you will at such time as you may judge to be proper, lay at the foot of the Throne my humble and dutiful resignation of the office with which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to honour me in the administration of this government.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. T. METCALFE.

(No. 36.)

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 14th January, 1842.

No. 17.

THE terms of your Despatch, No. 8, of the 1st November, are such as to preclude the hope, which would in other circumstances have induced me to postpone my present communication, that you might still have been prevailed upon to continue for a time to Her Majesty's Government and to Jamaica the benefit of services which you have rendered with so much credit to yourself and so much advantage to the colony over which you preside.

I have therefore felt it my duty not to incur the inconvenience of an unnecessary delay, and, although with very sincere regret, have laid your resignation before the Queen, by whom it has been graciously accepted; and I have at the same time received Her Majesty's commands to convey to you the expression of Her Majesty's high approbation of the ability and judgment with which you have performed the important duties entrusted to you. I have it not in my power at present to announce to you the appointment of your successor, but I hope to be enabled to do so before very long, adverting to your own expressed desire to be relieved by the middle of April, and to the convenience to your successor of arriving before the great heats of summer set in. I am afraid, however, that I cannot concur in the arrangement which you propose for placing the temporary administration in the hands of Sir W. Gomm, that officer having been appointed, as you are probably aware, to a military command at home, from which it is desirable that he should not be long absent.

I have derived great pleasure from the improved and generally satisfactory report of the affairs of the colony which you were enabled to transmit in your Despatch of the 1st November; and I am only doing you justice in acknowledging most willingly how much this state of things is to be attributed to your able and judicious administration.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

STANLEY.

The Right Hon. Sir C. T. Metcalfe, Bart., G.C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 18.

JAMAICA

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B.
to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord, King's House, 3rd December, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to submit all the half-yearly Agricultural Reports received
since the last Despatch of similar documents.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley, (Signed) C. T. METCALFE.
&c. &c. &c.

A SCHEDULE of Agricultural Reports, received from Stipendiary Magistrates and Senior Magistrates
of Parishes, for the Year 1841.

Date.	No.	Name.	Parish.	Remarks.	Page.
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12 " . . .	23	T. W. Jackson, Esq.	St. Thomas-in-the-Vale	"	42
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Enclosure 1, in No. 18.

Sir,

Buff Bay, St. George's, 1st December, 1841.

Encl. 1, in No. 18.

I HAVE the honour to forward the following Report on the agricultural prospects of
this parish, as required by the Circular Letter of his Excellency the Governor, No. 994, dated
the 1st August, 1840.

This parish, usually very wet, has not suffered from rain this year. The spring and summer
were remarkably fine, and our autumnal rains did not commence till the middle of October. The
prospects of the sugar plants are very good, and there is every favourable appearance for the
crops of the next, as well as those of the present year.

The heavy rains, accompanied by very severe squalls of wind, have, I regret to say, done
much injury to the coffee plantations. The crops was first ripe, and picking had commenced,
when the severity of the weather destroyed one-half of the berries, blowing them from the
trees.

I am glad to observe that there has been no want of persons to take in the crop, on the
coffee properties in this parish; but on sugar estates the want of continuous labour is severely
felt. The low price of land, (about three pounds sterling per acre,) has induced a great
proportion of the labouring population to purchase; and the cultivation of their own freeholds,
at the present high rate of ground provisions, is very lucrative.

No villages have as yet been formed in St. George; though the climate of the mountains,
and the fertility of the soil render it a most excellent situation for the location of European
immigrants. The vicinity, too, to the Kingston market, (about 15 miles from the high
lands) is peculiarly favourable to settlers. African immigration, when tried, has succeeded
remarkably well.

There has been no new feature in the state of education, since the last report was transmitted.

JAMAICA.

I fear that the school, hitherto supported by the Messrs Mitchell of London, on their For Stewart estate, will now be abandoned for want of funds.

Crime is by no means on the increase. The appointment of the chairmen of the courts of Quarter Session, already appears to have produced a beneficial effect, which will, I have no doubt, lead to a diminution of crime generally.

Captain J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.

WM. HEWITT.

Enclosure 2, in No. 18.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

Parish of Port Royal, August, 1841.

Encl. 2, in No. 18.

IN my last Report, I stated how much this parish had suffered by the long and parching droughts, and which had made the coffee crop later by two months than usual; how far this will effect the next, must depend altogether upon the seasons. The blossom which should have been out in May, is only now making its appearance, and it is but reasonable to infer that the crop will be late again next year. The May rains set in the latter end of that month with refreshing showers, but was soon followed by a deluge which continued without intermission for ten days; fortunately it subsided in time, or vast damage would have ensued from the loose fertile soil of which this parish is composed, and the great declivity of the fields.

Wages continue the same, varying from one shilling to one shilling and sixpence per day on ordinary plantation work; the picking season is the labourer's harvest, he is then enabled for a short time to earn from two to three shillings per day, but which gradually declines to its former level, the shilling.

Rents remain as before, each inmate of a family, who can work, being charged at the rate of one day's labour per week; double rents have been kept down by the amendment to the Petty Debt Act, passed last Session, making it imperative on parties suing, to show that such terms were by the express agreement of landlord and tenant.

Small freeholds have commenced in this parish by the sale of "Mavis Bank," a worn out coffee plantation, which they are cutting up into lots suitable to the peasantry, and which are eagerly purchased by the negroes at from five to six pounds sterling, per acre. The Wesleyans have built a temporary chapel there, which is crowded to excess. The Baptists are also about to build there,

There are no schools at present in this parish, but the Wesleyan Missionary Society are going to open one near their chapel.

The negroes in this parish have begun to migrate. Two plantations—"Strawberry Hill" and "Westphalia"—have lost the greater part of their labourers, who have gone into St. Mary's, on the north side of the island. The principal inducement seems to be the great fertility of the land there for raising provisions, of which this parish is almost destitute, for even in the most favourable seasons they can scarcely raise sufficient to support their families.

The anniversary of freedom to the negroes was followed by a fortnight's holidays, for which preparations had been made by the planters, so that they suffered little or no inconvenience by it, and I am happy to say the conduct of the peasantry during that time was most peaceable and orderly.

H. KENT, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Enclosure 3, in No. 18.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

Parish of St. David's, 1st October, 1841.

Encl. 3, in No. 18.

THIS parish is under the cultivation of both coffee and sugar; the former predominates, although there are some very extensive sugar estates in the lower part of the parish.

The crops have been got in without any trouble: the returns of coffee will prove more than an average; and the sugar, although deficient of what was made during the pressing times of the apprenticeship, will be found to be on the increase.

As respects the future prospects of the planter, I see no reason to despond; only let him pursue a conciliatory system, and all will go on well; there is every disposition on the part of the negro to work, if treated fairly, but the present system of blending wages and rent is the bane to the cultivation of this colony.

Wages vary from one shilling to one shilling and sixpence per day; few, however, are employed but by the job or task-work; many disputes follow on the settlement of their accounts, from the extent of the fields not being properly defined, and the negro not clearly comprehending the acre. Carpenters and masons are paid from two shillings to two shillings and sixpence per day; sawyers at the rate of nine pounds twelve shillings per thousand feet for hardwood, and seven pounds four shillings for cedar.

Rent continues to be charged each inmate of a family; and if any of them presume to go to a neighbouring property to work, a policeman is immediately sent after them with a summons to attend at the court-house, where they are saddled with vexatious costs: so soon as the negro learns his true position, he will remedy this, by migration.

Small freeholds are being established in two or three situations in this parish, but it will require time to ascertain whether it will lessen or give increased labour to the estates. These people begin to understand the value of coffee by planting it in their newly-acquired fields.

The Baptist Missionary Society are forming a settlement at Jallah's Bay, where they have built a chapel and school-house, and are laying out a township designated "Knightsville;" this is the only school that I am aware of in the parish,

Crimes of a serious nature do not prevail amongst the emancipated class; instances will occur of petty thefts, and such like offences, which will diminish as education diffuses itself.

H. KENT, Stipendiary Magistrate.

(No. 1148.)

JAMAICA.

Sir, King's House, 18th October, 1841.

"Rent continues to be charged each inmate of a family; and if any of them presume to go to a neighbouring property to work, a policeman is immediately sent after them with a summons to attend at the court-house, when they are saddled with vexatious costs: so soon as the negro learns his true position, he will remedy this, by migration."

THE extract from your Agricultural Report for the parish of St. David's transcribed in the margin appearing to the Governor to be susceptible of a double interpretation, I am desirous to request that you will explain the meaning which you intend to convey.

The extract, without further explanation, may be interpreted either into a very serious charge against the proprietary of the parish generally—that of attempting to force labour by oppressive and vexatious means, or merely that the landlords exercise the legal right of suing a defaulting tenant for rent due.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. M. HIGGINSON, Secretary.

Henry Kent, Esq.

Stipendiary Magistrate, St. David's.

(True Copy)

J. M. HIGGINSON, Secretary.

Sir,

Robertsfield, Parish of Port Royal, 25th October, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, No. 1148, calling upon me to explain the following clause in my Agricultural Report for the parish of St. David's, viz:—

"Rent continues to be charged each inmate of a family; and if any of them presume to go to a neighbouring property to work, a policeman is immediately sent after them with a summons to attend at the court-house, when they are saddled with vexatious costs: so soon as the negro learns his true position, he will remedy this, by migration."

I have then to state that, from what I can observe, few of the negroes appear to work on the estates where they are tenanted, which proceeds from two causes: on some estates, the managers hold out against the wages demanded by their own people, although in the end compelled to give in to strangers; and on other properties the negroes prefer to go out jobbing, to avoid the disputes which so frequently follow on the settlement of their accounts, from the mixing up of rent with wages; this incongruous state of things produces a great deal of bickering and ill-feeling between master and man; and to these discordant principles may, in a great measure, be attributed that want of continuous labour so much complained of. Can agriculture be carried on successfully in any country with a limited population, where the labourers are to be seen crossing each other on the roads, seeking employment from the causes I have stated?

I would further remark that, in many instances, when the labourer, after a difference with his overseer, has gone to a neighbouring property and engaged in a contract, he has been vexatiously called off from it by a summons to the court-house, for a trifling arrearage of rent; thereby inflicting a threefold injury on the man: first, by the loss of his time in a long journey to the court-house; secondly, by costs of suit (which there could be no necessity for); and, thirdly, by leaving an opening for the party he had contracted with to say that he had vitiated his contract.

It is, however, but fair in me to state that, on some of the properties, I know, from the people themselves, that they are kindly treated; but on many it is far otherwise, and cannot fail in the end to terminate ruinously to those parties, by the migration of their people, and the depopulation of the parish.

I have, &c.

H. KENT, Stipendiary Magistrate.

J. M. Higginson, Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 4, in No. 18.

Sir,

Morant Bay, 4th October, 1841.

In my last Report which I had the honour to transmit on the 26th September, 1840, I stated that the severe drought which had prevailed nearly up to that period, and the serious injury which the cultivation of many estates had sustained thereby had created a very general apprehension that the crop would fall infinitely below the estimate which had been previously entertained of its result. I am happy, however, now to state that the injury which was said to have been inflicted on the plants, appears not to have been extensive, and that the crop which terminated on the 1st August, is fully one third larger than that of last year.

Encl. 4, in No. 18.

The rates of wages both for field and manufacturing occupations, have not altered since my last Report, neither has there been any diminution in the supply of labour.

The establishment of independent freeholds is progressing, and the desire to possess them prevails generally.

In reference to crime, I have no reason to believe that it is increasing, and although an unusual number of prisoners were convicted at the two last courts of Quarter Sessions, it must be recollected that many offences that were formerly tried at Petty Sessions, are now sent to the Quarter Sessions.

D

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There are many schools in this parish, and the advantages of education are still sought after by the peasantry.

In reference to the effect of small independent freeholds on the supply of steady labour, and the condition of the new interior towns and villages, I have nothing at present to add to the opinion I have already given on this point.

In conclusion I beg to state that active preparations have been made for the next crop, and the fine seasons which this parish has been favoured with, afford the most certain prospect of an abundant return.

Captain J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed)

D. EWART.

Enclosure 5, in No. 18.

Sir,

St. Andrew, 22nd October, 1841.

Encl. 5, in No. 18.

I HAVE the honour to forward my Agricultural Report of this parish.

1st. The price of labour, generally, appears to be for able workers, one shilling and sixpence sterling per day, lessening as the inability of the person may be, to one shilling. A considerable portion, however, of the work of plantations, is undertaken by the piece or job, a mode which is becoming in very general use. There is no regulated charge for this description of labour, it is subject to such a variety of incidental circumstances, but I understand that the labourers frequently earn at this description of work, from three to four shillings sterling per day; this is doubtless accomplished by great bodily exertion, and could not possibly be continuous. I have not understood that any difficulty was experienced in procuring labour during the current year. I must, however, observe, that until of late, the extreme dry state of the weather had almost stopped cultivation on the sugar estates, and labour was therefore in very limited demand, but I have every reason to believe that both the plough and manual labour are in vigorous use at this moment, throughout the sugar districts, to prepare the cane fields for renewed cultivation, under the most propitious circumstances possible, arising from the rapid vegetation produced by delightfully refreshing rains of late.

2nd. The quantity of produce realized upon the sugar estates this year, under the influence of such unprecedented drought, must, as a natural consequence, be very inconsiderable, and the losses sustained by many proprietors are, I believe, most severely felt, a great portion of the canes having been lost on some of the estates.

It is, however, some consolation to be able to state, that the coffee plantations escaped this visitation, and have, from all I can learn, yielded tolerably fair average returns; the mountains in which these plantations are situated, being naturally much more favoured with rain than the valleys immediately below them.

3rd. The progress of the rural population in establishing themselves as independent settlers is undoubtedly considerable. This circumstance must in some degree interrupt the regular supply of labour to the larger estates, but as yet I have not heard many complaints on this head, and it appears to me that the want of capital is the greatest draw-back. The new interior towns or villages created since the abolition of slavery in this parish, exhibit little or no organization or arrangement, they are rather to be considered as farm settlements, in three or four districts where land can be procured with the least difficulty, each individual taking up such a position as suits his own views and circumstances. The lands thus occupied are generally of an inferior description, but the people buy and rent them readily, in the former case they pay on an average about five pounds sterling per acre, and in the latter one pound per acre, per annum. These settlements are cultivated with much care and industry, and no ordinary degree of tact; in many instances the sugar canes and coffee trees are to be seen in a tolerably forward state, with vegetables of every description, arrow-root and fruits in great abundance. I am not aware, however, that these new settlers, on an average, occupy more than from two to three acres of land, which being generally of an inferior description, affords but a limited field for enterprize. It is common among them to make sufficient sugar for family use, expressing the cane juice by means of a simple wooden press, and boiling it in the common kitchen utensils. The retail commerce with which the population of this parish are identified, is exclusively confined to Kingston, as it has been in former times. I cannot therefore think that the change in the condition of the people, or their locations, has had any effect upon the internal retail commerce of the colony, the effect it might produce on that description of trade, in so extensive a mercantile city as Kingston is, would be difficult to ascertain.

Education among the children in the rural districts appears to be forwarded by the establishment of about thirteen schools, distributed to suit the convenience of this class of persons, six of the schools are, I believe, under the control of the lord bishop and vestry, the remainder are under the different dissenting ministers, and the London Missionary Society. I understand that these schools are all well attended.

4th. Crime, I am happy to state, is on the decrease, and is confined to the minor degrees. This parish being contiguous to the very populous city of Kingston, is frequently infested by prowlers at night, who come in quest of poultry, and other petty plunder. This description of crime is the most conspicuous in our courts of Petty Sessions, the other matters tried in these courts are chiefly assaults (most of which are confined to the negro population), trespasses, and petty debts; the latter occasionally for rent differences between the newly-emancipated people and their employers, are, I am happy to say, of very rare occurrence.

In conclusion, I beg to observe, that the conduct of the rural population is orderly and peaceable.

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Captain J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed)

R. DALY,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

Enclosure 6, in No. 18.

Sir,

Parish of Portland,
Parish Antonio, 14th October. 1841.

Encl. 6, in No. 18.

In obedience to your Circular, No. 1092, I have the honour to report for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the progress of agriculture in this parish is highly satisfactory, whether we look at the result of the present year's crop of the staple article sugar, or the preparations now making for the ensuing crop.

By a return now before me, the particulars of which I have obtained from the managers of estates, it appears that a great increase has taken place in this year's crops as compared with the last, and a much greater increase is confidently expected next year, extensive preparations for which I observe progressing rapidly on every side.

It further appears by a return of the exports from this port during the past and the present years, that the amount of the latter is double the former. Respecting this return, which I obtained from the Custom-house, I beg to observe that a great part of the produce made in this parish is sent to Kingston, and does not appear in the amount of exports from this port, therefore the Custom-house return showing the exports from this port cannot be taken as a correct account of the amount of produce made in this parish.

The price of field labour is from one shilling to one shilling and three-pence per day, for able-bodied labourers; the young, aged, and weakly persons who labour, are paid lower in proportion. But almost all labour is performed in this parish by the job, at or about the following rates:—

	£.	s.	d.
Cleaning and lining the land from 4s. to 8s. per acre, say 8s.	0	8	0
Digging into cane-holes, ditto	3	8	0
Throwing dung, ditto	0	12	0
Planting the canes, ditto	0	12	0
Cleaning and moulding the canes, from 9s. to 12s. per acre; this operation is generally required three times, say 12s.	1	16	0
Trashing ditto, from 8s. to 10s. ditto, ditto three times, say at 10s.	1	10	0
Cutting and carrying fuel-wood for the coppers	0	10	0
Cutting, carrying, and manufacturing into sugar per hogshead of 20 cwt.	3	4	0

Cost of planting, cultivating, and manufacturing into sugar an acre of canes, supposing it to yield one hogshead of sugar 12 0 0

An acre of ordinary land will yield on an average one hogshead and a quarter, or 25 cwt. of sugar, from "plants," or the first crop of canes; but two-thirds at least of the cane land in cultivation on every estate are "ratoons," or the second crop of canes, which are cultivated at the following rates:—

	£.	s.	d.
Turning trash per acre	0	5	0
Weeding and moulding ditto	0	14	0
Cleaning ditto	0	9	0
Trashing two times, at 10s. and 8s. ditto.	0	18	0
Fuel-wood for the coppers sufficient to boil one hogshead of sugar	0	10	0
Cutting, carrying and manufacturing into sugar, per hogshead	3	4	0

Cost of cultivating and manufacturing into sugar an acre of "ratoon" canes, supposing it to yield one hogshead of sugar of 20 cwt. 6 0 0

Allowing one acre of "plant" for every two acres of "ratoons," every acre cultivated in this manner, on the most moderate calculation, will give on an average one hogshead of sugar; therefore the cost of a hogshead, or 20 cwt. of sugar to the planter amounts to the sum of eight pounds.

And further, the planter expects, and generally realizes, a puncheon of rum from the molasses and other "sweets" obtained in the course of the manufacture of every two hogsheads of sugar. The rum is distilled by day-labour; two persons are generally employed at this work during crop. I have calculated the cost of this work on several estates, and I find that it does not exceed the sum of one pound per puncheon of 90 or 120 gallons.

Labour at the above rates is easily procured, and may be had continuously, except at certain seasons, when the labourers are employed planting their ground provisions (a description of produce that is extensively cultivated here, and great quantities of which are shipped to Falmouth and other places), and at the holidays of Christmas, Easter, and the first day of August, which I regret to say are in many instances uselessly and very improperly prolonged to lengthened periods. It is true that some managers complain of the difficulty of obtaining labour, and attribute the circumstance to indolence and the independent situation of the

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labourers; but I find that on other estates in their immediate neighbourhood, where the labourers are no better disposed, and equally independent, no such complaint exists. And indeed the labourers so complained of are generally to be found exerting their industry on some neighbouring estate, owing to some real or supposed grievance they experience at home. In short, it is my opinion that much depends on the manager; if he is himself an industrious person, and his personal attention is directed to the property under his charge (which in many instances is not the case, owing to various causes), and he is supplied with the means to pay the labourers punctually and promptly, he will experience no difficulty in obtaining labour in this parish. A reference to the management of particular properties would more clearly illustrate this subject.

The rates of hire already given are calculated for the manner in which the cultivation of most estates are conducted in this parish; but improvement in the mode of agriculture is taking place on some properties by using the plough to prepare the land for planting the canes, the manual labour costs only the sum of one pound per acre, instead of three pounds eight shillings, as calculated in the above scale; and by using the plough in cleaning and moulding the canes, the work is performed for the sum of four shillings and sixpence per acre, instead of from ten to twelve shillings.

This mode of cultivation has further the advantage of completely eradicating the weeds, and the soil being more effectually loosened, the canes grow more luxuriantly; yet, with those obvious advantages, the plough is but little used in this parish.

On one estate, where this mode of cultivation has been adopted, the crop this year exceeds the average of the crops for the last fourteen years; and the manager informs me that through the same means he expects to extend the cultivation of the estate greatly, which he would not attempt under the old system.

The rural population are making rapid progress in establishing themselves as small freeholders, and the effect of those small independent freeholders does not appear to operate against the supply of steady labour, but is rather conducive thereto, as misunderstandings respecting rent are thereby obviated. I have an instance of the fact on the property on which I reside, the labourers located on which were "jobbers" previous to the abolition of slavery; some have purchased the freeholds on which they live, whilst others pay rent for them, and there being no cultivation carried on on the property, they leave their houses on Monday morning and labour on some of the neighbouring estates until Friday evening, when they return to their homes. Some planters are so convinced of this fact now, that they have offered to dispose of their houses and grounds to the labourers. It is to be regretted this plan is not generally adopted, as in some instances the labourers have settled at an inconvenient distance from the estates.

Those settlements are scattered over the interior very irregularly; the objects of the parties choosing a location being apparently a wish to be as near as possible to the estates to which they belonged as slaves, and to which they seem to have a great attachment.

There appears to be no regularly laid out towns or villages in the interior, with the exception of "Moor Town," inhabited by the "Maroons," and "Altamount," a township at which an attempt has been made to locate Scotch emigrants, but which has turned out a complete failure—the men, with two exceptions, having died, leaving a number of widows and children in a helpless and destitute state, to which several have fallen victims.

In their habits and general condition there appears to be very little improvement amongst the Maroons, considering how long they have been settled. Their agricultural pursuits are chiefly confined to the cultivation of arrow-root, tobacco, and ground provisions. They sometimes undertake to clean pastures, but their aversion to labour on sugar estates, or to associate with the rural population, is strong, and apparently inveterate. Whether the Maroon establishments could be broken up appears to be a question worthy the consideration of the Legislature.

With respect to education, the number of teachers and the advantages of instruction have been comparatively few. By the recent arrival of the Rev. Mr. Ward, a Baptist minister, who has opened no fewer than four schools in this parish, the means of instruction has been considerably extended. Sunday-schools are conducted by the several denominations of religionists in their respective places of worship. To these a considerable portion of the adult population resort, and are instructed in their civil duties and moral obligations, as well as in a knowledge of letters.

It is much to be desired that some portion of the public money should be devoted to educational purposes, on liberal and enlightened principles.

With reference to the state of crime, the return I had the honour of transmitting to your department last month, exhibiting the number of persons convicted at each court of Quarter Session held in this parish since the termination of the apprenticeship system, also their offences and punishments, shows a decrease in crime since that period, as vide the following summary:—

Year ending 31st day of August, 1839,	17 convictions
" " " 1840,	21 ditto
" " " 1841,	15 ditto

A Court of Petty Sessions is held in this town every Saturday, and sometimes also on Wednesday. A great number of cases come before these courts, consisting principally of assaults, trespasses, breaches of contract, and petty misdemeanours. In most instances the culprits are punished by the infliction of a pecuniary penalty not exceeding the sum of five pounds. A great number of petty debt cases are also disposed of at these courts, the justices having jurisdiction to the extent of ten pounds.

It sometimes happens that much inconvenience is occasioned by the irregular attendance of some of the local justices at those courts; several of these gentlemen have expressed an unwillingness to devote their time to this public duty unless they are paid for their services.

In closing this report, I beg to advert to the formation of a society for the encouragement of agriculture which has been got up in this parish, and which is ably presided over by his Honour the Custos. A ploughing-match and show of stock has already taken place, which has succeeded in exciting a laudable spirit of competition and inquiry, from which much good may be anticipated. Improved modes of agriculture, skill, and industry, is likely to be the result of such an association, and by those means only will Jamaica be enabled to compete with the slave-holder and other producers of sugar in other countries.

Captain J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PETER BROWN,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

Enclosure 7, in No. 18.

Sir,

Kingston, December 6th, 1841.

IN answer to a requisition as contained in his Excellency's Circular, No. 994, I have the honour to state that this parish is but of small extent, and, with the exception of market gardens, there is little agricultural cultivation. The land generally in the neighbourhood of Kingston is much neglected, and appears to have been allowed for many years to run waste. It would have been supposed that the demands of, and proximity to, a populous town would have had a beneficial effect on the adjacent lands. The reverse is the fact. Improvements are, however, discernible. The land is falling into the hands of individuals who are able and willing to cultivate them to some profitable purpose.

Encl. 7, in No. 18.

The price of labour, as far as I have been able to ascertain, is as follows:—

	Per Diem.
Masons, not exceeding	4s.
Cabinet-makers do.	6s.
Carpenters do.	6s.
Blacksmiths do.	6s.
Shipwrights do.	6s.

Common labourers from eighteen-pence to two shillings and sixpence per diem.

Domestic servants are generally engaged by the week, and in the agreement for wages, neither food, clothing, nor residence is included.

A butler can get from ten shillings to fifteen shillings per week.

A groom seldom obtains more than ten shillings per week.

A cook will get from eight to sixteen shillings per week, according to his skill.

A housemaid seldom can procure more than eight shillings per week.

With respect to the character of the labour performed, I can but state, that some individuals of my acquaintance who employ large bodies of labourers, express themselves perfectly satisfied, while others are loud and general in their complaints. The result of my own experience is, that labour, such as it is, can be easily procured; but the difficulty consists in obtaining a steady uninterrupted supply, in order to remunerate the employer.

As to domestic servants, they are, as a class, most lamentably deficient in all necessary qualifications. The duties and restraints are irksome and unpopular.

The progress of the labouring population in establishing themselves in small freeholds is rapid; they even at the present moment compose a large proportion of the constituency of the parish. Whether the above fact is conducive to steady and continuous labour in the rural districts, I have not sufficient experience to determine; but with regard to the towns, the small patches of land obtained by the labouring classes are but sufficient for the erection of small dwellings, and therefore contribute nothing to the subsistence of the family, which must still depend, as formerly, on any employment they may obtain from persons of capital.

I have to regret that anxiety of mind, and incessant occupation, in order to rebut the persecuting charges brought against me, has afforded me no opportunity of obtaining more detailed information respecting the education and religious instruction of the lower classes; but I have every reason to believe that in the public schools much progress in that respect is made. The prejudices of colour still exist to the extent of preventing the admission of a black female of respectable parents into the private female academies.

In reference to the state of crime in this parish, I regret that a decrease in the number and amount of offences cannot be reported. In a return I had the honour to make, (dated 27th Oct., 1841), it will be seen that in three years ending the 1st August, 1841, there have been 5919 individuals detained in the Kingston cage, and subsequently brought before the sitting magistrates, 476 of whom were tried and convicted at the court of Quarter Sessions; and as the above number does not include the numerous individuals who were not so confined previous to trial, I do not think there have been, during the period above-mentioned, less than 10,000 individuals whose cases have been brought under the cognizance of the sitting magistrates.

On my removal from this district, where I have for six years been in constant and intimate communication, as stipendiary magistrate, with the late emancipated population, I cannot but record my admiration of, and satisfaction at, the general conduct and peaceable demeanour of

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so numerous a body of individuals, who, with the slightest previous education, and smarting under recent oppression and degradation, have exhibited such propriety of conduct and submission to the laws.

Capt. J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.

H. MORESBY.

Enclosure 8, in No. 18.

Golden Grove, St. Thomas-in-the-East,
September 1st, 1841.

Sir,

Encl. 8, in No. 18.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the following as my half-yearly report for the information of his Excellency the Governor, agreeable to your Circular of the 1st August, 1840.

As many of the answers to the queries put in the Circular would now be the same as those in my reports of 15th August, 1840, and 1st March, 1841, I only deem it necessary to give answers which must be different from my former ones.

2. The labourers generally are working more by the job than they would formerly do, although some are still determined to work only by the day, when they do not give equal to five hours of fair work.

3. The necessity for an increase of black labourers is every day becoming greater, and the young people made free in 1834 and since, are brought up in entire idleness. Not more than one-third of them attend school.

4. The crops are nearly all finished, and, from all I can learn, they are, throughout the precinct, about one-third more than last year.

5. In my former reports, I stated that in this district the want of labour was not increased by the people having purchased lands. I regret to say, the case is different now; for here, as throughout the precinct, they remain idle at their homes much more than they did.

6. Crime has certainly increased, as the records of our courts of justice clearly prove.

7. Except in the increase of crime, and the almost total want of continuous industry, so necessary for the cultivation of estates, the civility and general demeanour of the people are all that we could desire.

The benefits arising from the appointment of legal chairmen to our Quarter Sessions, are already very conspicuous; for besides the high attainments of these gentlemen, which qualify them to conduct the business of the courts as they ought to be, they can act with that entire independence which is so necessary in a judge, and are quite above that suspicion which would always have been attached to the proceedings of the local magistrates, however pure their intentions might be.

It is to be hoped that, by the exertions of the chairmen and their brother magistrates in impartially administering the law, without favour to either class or colour, such proper and effectual punishments will be awarded as soon to diminish crime, or at least to prevent it further increasing.

I am happy in being able to state, what I am sure his Excellency will be glad to learn, that the Africans brought from Sierra Leone by Mr. Barclay are doing remarkably well. There are about sixty of them on two estates in this district; they are very intelligent, and work as much as can reasonably be expected, with the example set them by the independent and indolent Creoles. I consider their civilisation, intelligence, and good conduct is chiefly owing to the zealous exertions of the missionaries at Sierra Leone. I deem it only an act of justice to these good men, thus to bear testimony to the good effects of their praiseworthy exertions. All interested in the prosperity of the island must feel deeply indebted to Mr. Barclay for his indefatigable exertions in opening a source of immigration which has been so happily begun, and from which the greatest benefits will be derived.

I have always been opposed to the immigration of white labourers, at least for the low lands, and every day's experience confirms my opinion more strongly.

J. M. Higginson, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,

THOS. M'CORNOCK, Custos.

Enclosure 9, in No. 18.

Sir,

St. Andrew's, October 22nd, 1841.

Encl. 9, in No. 18.

AGREEABLY to your Circular of the 1st August, 1840, No. 994, I beg leave to offer, for his Excellency's information, the following remarks, the result of my own personal observation, as well as from what has been communicated to me by others connected with the agriculture of the parish.

Price of Labour.—This varies according to circumstances. Daily labour continues at from one shilling to one shilling and sixpence sterling; but more frequently labour is performed by task and job-work, at the rate of from twelve to fifteen chains for one shilling sterling, and sometimes as low as ten chains, according to the condition of the cane-fields; and in coffee,

from one hundred to one hundred and fifty trees, according to the distance and state of the fields, and sometimes as few as eighty trees.

Job Work.—The labourers perform job-work at the following rate, viz. : cane-holes at from seventy, eighty, and one hundred, for from three shillings and sixpence to four shillings ; and cleaning canes at from eight, nine, ten, twelve, and sometimes as high as sixteen shillings sterling, according to the demand there is for labour, and the state of the fields to be cultivated.

The general result of the Crops.—The sugar crops just finished, in any instance within my knowledge, has not nearly paid the expense, some of the properties having had large fields of canes destroyed by drought and other causes. The prospects for next crop are more favourable, from the fine seasons we have had ; and as labour settles down, if prices can be realised, or price of labour reduced, I think on many estates they might carry on the cultivation of sugar, while on others it is impossible.

Coffee Crops.—The cultivation of this article has been carried on much better, and it has not suffered from the effects of the seasons so much. The crops of this year has been generally good, and some of the plantations expect to make good returns next crop, while others will make small crops. The expense in this cultivation is heavy, but less in proportion than sugar.

Rural Population.—They are establishing small settlements and villages, giving up their houses, retaining their provision-grounds. Many give their labour to the original proprietors and properties ; others prefer working for strangers, and in all cases demand high wages.

Effects of Independent Free Labourers.—Occasions an uncertainty of labour to the properties in time of need, by which means produce is frequently lost, and seasons allowed to pass away without taking advantage of them. Although labour has settled down much since my last report, yet we require more than we can get at times.

Villages and small Settlements.—They continue to increase their villages and settlements, but I believe they are not quite so fond of buying land as they were. They now begin to find out their old quarters are more comfortable than the new, and that, what with building, taxes, &c., they are put to an expense which some of them do not like.

Retail Commerce.—There are several retail and bake shops establishing in the different districts, which prove very useful to the people.

Interior Towns.—There are not any towns beyond the small villages, which are in their infancy.

Schools of different Denominations.—The people are anxious to give their children an education, without the least inclination to bring them up to industrious habits, under the false impression that they may all do without labouring when advanced in life.

Means afforded for educational purposes.—The Lord Bishop of the diocese, with funds at his disposal, unites with the vestry of the parish in establishing about six schools, which are progressing very satisfactorily.

Church Missionary, London Missionary, and Baptist Societies.—Have several schools established in this parish, to each of which are attached chapels for the performance of divine service on Sundays. From these the population are deriving great advantage.

Agricultural Improvements.—Since my last report, great progress has been made among the labourers ; and I hope in after years all the estates in this parish will be cultivated by the plough. Several ploughing matches have been formed, at which great emulation has been displayed, and, with encouragement of prizes, have caused our labourers to take great pride in acquiring a knowledge of ploughing, which does them great credit ; and I am in hopes that in this respect our parish will be second to none.

Trusting the information I have given will prove satisfactory to his Excellency,

I have, &c.

JOSEPH GORDON, Custos.

Capt. J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 10, in No. 18.

Sir,

Saint George, 19th October, 1841.

In accordance with Circular No. 994 of last year, I make the following Report as to this parish. Encl. 10, in No. 18.

1st. The price of labour has increased. In my former Report of October last, I stated that a greater willingness to labour had prevailed for some months among the labourers, but that I considered it was partly to be attributed to the diminished demand for labour, owing to the numerous fields of canes, which had gone out of cultivation throughout the parish, and also to a scarcity of ground provisions, rather than to an increased spirit of industry ; and stated, that this opinion would be put to future test. I now feel persuaded that it was correct, for owing to the cane and coffee fields being partially restored to cultivation, more labour naturally became required, and a difficulty in obtaining the requisite labour has been the result. To remedy this inconvenience, some managers adopted the plan of giving a large increase of wages with rum and sugar, and employing persons to entice labourers from other estates ; the obvious effect of which has been to increase wages generally.

2nd. In the recent Agricultural Report of this parish, it was calculated the present sugar crop would double the last, which I think will not now be realized. But if such should fortunately be the case, it is to be remarked, that a deficiency of nearly one half of the former average produce of sugar will still exist.

3rd. I consider a combination, or understanding has prevailed throughout the year, among the labourers of this parish, not to make above a certain number of hogsheads of sugar weekly, not exceeding in general five or six, even on plantations where ripe canes were growing,

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sufficient to make double that number; and which during the apprenticeship would have been made as an ordinary week's work. On some estates, I believe there are now canes suffering from overripeness, because, notwithstanding every effort made by the managers, they cannot get the labourers to cut and manufacture in proper weekly quantities.

4th. The coffee properties have not suffered in an equal degree.

5th. The labourers continue to purchase small lots of land, although not to any considerable amount, yet sufficient to create inconvenience on some properties, which, if persisted in generally, will ultimately affect the whole.

6th. Parents continue desirous of having their children instructed, but they do not appear to bring the older ones up in habits of work, it being a matter of rare occurrence, to see a class of children weeding on an estate, to which their labour is so peculiarly adapted.

7th. No crimes of atrocity have been committed.

8th. Luxury has increased among the negro labourers, particularly in keeping riding horses; they do not appear indisposed to pay taxes where required, even sometimes seeming to consider it a mark of independence.

In conclusion, I report that it will be impossible to restore this parish to its former state of cultivation, with a saving profit to the proprietary, unless a large addition is made to its labouring population. It is, therefore, earnestly to be hoped, that Her Majesty's Government will co-operate with the Legislature of this Island in promoting immigration, and permitting it from all parts of the world. In reference to which, I beg to state, that African labourers appear more suited for that purpose than seemed to me at one time would be the case; for experience has shown that those captured slaves who were brought to Port Antonio, and liberated two or three years ago, have become as industrious and civilized as the Creole Negroes of the Island.

Captain J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed,)

I have, &c.,
A. B. GROSSETT, Custos

Enclosure 11, in No. 18.

Parishes of Trelawney and St. Ann,
18th June, 1841.

Sir,

Encl. 11, in No. 18.

I HAVE been prevented from transmitting at an earlier period, the information required in your Circular of the 1st August, 1840, from a severe and dangerous attack of fever, which has left me weak, and prostrate up to the present date.

I have now the honour to state, for his Excellency's information, that a prolonged repetition of dry weather, has greatly increased the embarrassment occasioned by a similar drought in 1840. On many estates, it has been found impossible to establish the usual quantity of plants, and in various instances, where the process of renewing has been carried on with great labour and perseverance, I regret to add, that a total absence of moisture has caused extensive failures.

The cost of labour and cultivation, has undergone no general change since last year, a want of continuous labour is much less complained of, whilst an infinitely better understanding between the employer and the employed, is positively established.

The peasantry have not retrograded in their good conduct, and respect for the laws, and I am led to anticipate, that the tables of crimes and punishments, which I shall have the honour to submit to his Excellency at the conclusion of this year, will exhibit the same paucity of offences, as those I had the honour to append to my last report.

Sugar and coffee are still in progress of manufacture on many properties in these districts, whilst others have finished. The total amount will fall greatly short of the quantity shipped on the three or four preceding years.

The next subject I consider it my duty to represent to the Executive, is one I should gladly omit, if the general interest of the community had not been involved; I mean the irregular and uncertain attendance of the local magistrates, at the courts of Petty Sessions in the Riobueno district. During the short space of three months, there has been nine adjourned courts, at which both the clerk of the peace and myself attended; thereby inducing not only a vast accumulation of undecided cases, but proving equally injurious to manager and labourer, as many felt so harassed by the distance travelled, and the disappointments endured, that they ultimately ceased to prosecute their suits altogether.

I believe these frequent omissions can be most satisfactorily accounted for by the local magistrates, originating either in the pressure of private business, or the arrival of the English mail, on these particular days, which required their prompt and undivided attention.

At the Browns town court of Petty Sessions in the parish of St. Anne, where the local magistrates are punctual in their attendance, there has been but little business disposed of during my illness; on one occasion, although four or five magistrates were in the town, the clerk of the peace failed in forming a bench.

One magistrate stated he was in the employ of a certain defendant, and that it would be neither delicate or proper for him to adjudicate; a second had some cases of his own on the list of trials for that day; a third had sat at the two previous courts; and a fourth was willing to take his place on the bench, if a colleague could be procured.

These facts, Sir, although plainly detailed, are of great importance, and a source of much inconvenience to those who have from twenty to forty miles to travel, and who look to the

prompt decisions of the court, not only as necessary to their individual interest, but as having an extensive influence on the habits and conduct of the community.

I have since been able to resume my duties, and am happy to add, that with one exception, all adjourned cases have been disposed of.

Captain J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
T. A. DILLON,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

Enclosure 12, in No. 18.

Sir,

Savanna-la-Mar, 8th June, 1841.

NEARLY all the estates in this parish having finished crop, I have the honour to submit my periodical report on the progress of agriculture for the information of his Excellency the Governor. Encl. 12, in No. 18.

The price of labour, I believe, will generally be found to have somewhat increased, particularly at the mill and boiling-house, the wages being now universally two shillings per diem for a specific number of gallons ground—on an average three thousand. The wages of the head people vary from twelve pounds to thirty pounds per annum, averaging perhaps fifteen pounds per annum, with free use of house and ground, and often the privilege of running a horse or cow. Cane-cutters are paid one shilling and sixpence for fifteen to twenty-five chains, and twelve shillings to fifteen shillings per acre for cleaning canes. The sum for day-labour is still one shilling and sixpence, which is seldom resorted to, as the labourer can earn that amount at almost any apportioned task in about six hours. The charge for rent for house and grounds has also been reduced on most of the estates, the average rent being now two shillings instead of three shillings per week. The effect of this reduction is indirectly an increase of wages; but I will again allude to the subject of rent.

As to the character of labour, the predominant complaint of the planter still is, that it is not continuous, and consequently cannot be said to be easily procured. So long as the present system of a daily hiring, or task be followed, labour must of necessity ever be precarious.

I have not learnt that any attempt has yet been made to induce a more lengthened contract of service. Unless such engagements are earnestly sought by the employer, and proposals made to the labourer, it cannot in fairness be complained that the latter will not enter into them. In the absence of permanent contracts, it is a matter of surprise the work on the estates has proceeded so uninterruptedly and regularly as it has. The frequent strikes for wages, and on account of rent, so prevalent last year, have, I hope, almost subsided. It reflects credit both to the labourer and his employer, and affords evidence that a better understanding exists between them.

I am now anxious to come to the result of the crop, which adds still stronger and more pleasing testimony of an improved state of our agricultural affairs. From the returns I have collected of the different estates, it gives me great pleasure to announce, that the total quantity of sugar made this crop amounts to 4205 hogsheads. The return is not pretended to be accurate to a few hogsheads, as the probable number only was calculated for many estates before their crop was taken in. The planters have to be thankful to the seasons as well as their labourers for this abundant harvest, which exceeds the crop of last year by 2533 hogsheads, and is 549 more than the average of the three preceding years. I flatter myself that Westmoreland will this year stand pre-eminent amongst the sugar parishes in the island. We have fortunately been favoured with rain at a time many parishes were suffering dreadfully from want of it; but it has been produced, no doubt, in a great measure by more steady labour. It is pleasing also to observe, the estates are generally in better order, and the canes looking well, so that there is every reason to anticipate a continued improvement in the ensuing year's crop.

I am glad to notice, that since August last, five persons only have been convicted for neglect of duty as agricultural servants at the courts of Petty Sessions which I attended, and in each case the charge was negligence in watching cattle-pens.

Since Sept. 1839, I have heard of no case of ejectment of any labourer from his house and ground. The general plan adopted where the occupant does not work or pay his rent, is to sue him under the Petty Debt Act.

I am sorry that I cannot yet discover much frugality amongst the peasantry. Indeed, it is much to be lamented that no inducement is held out to them to save their earnings by the benevolent establishment of a savings bank; and I believe their liberal and easily-earned wages are as liberally, and often thoughtlessly, spent in articles of dress and ornament.

I have before observed, the sums charged for rent have generally been reduced; and I am happy to say there exists a much better feeling on this subject. The rent is now more readily paid, or allowed from the weekly wages. It is still not uniformly imposed. On a few estates no rent is charged, unless the labourer is absent from work. On another, sixpence out of the weekly sum of three shillings is returned, provided the party has worked the five days. On another, the tenant is to pay sixpence for every day he is absent. Summonses for rent have, however, become very rare in the petty debt courts, and the matter is generally arranged satisfactorily between landlord and tenant.

On the subject of immigration, it will perhaps be expected that I should say a few words, Although the greater part of nearly three hundred Irish and Scotch imported to this parish

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in January last have not been engaged in agriculture, but principally found employment as domestic servants and mechanics, some of them are located in the neighbouring parishes. On one estate in the highlands, about sixty are chiefly engaged in the field, and, I am informed, give great satisfaction. Unfortunately, a great many of the domestics have proved less successful in their situations, and have already left their employers. They appear to have felt much disappointment in their expectations of this country, no doubt in many instances too highly raised. I trust, when they become more habituated to the great change they must have experienced, they may have no cause to regret leaving their native country. Many are very hard-working people, and, from being accustomed to endure hardship at home, I think are likely to bear the climate of this country. I should observe, that on several estates there are also a number of the liberated Africans located upwards of a twelvemonth. They generally are paid the same as the estate negroes, work remarkably well, and give every satisfaction.

The progress of the labourers in settling small freeholds, has not, I think, been very extensive since my last report. On most estates in the lowlands, there is no neighbouring land available, and I doubt if the negroes generally can command the means of purchasing. I am still of opinion the possession of freeholds has hitherto not been conducive to steady labour. The price of ground provisions being so high, and the demand for them so greatly exceeding the supply, the negro is more profitably employed in their cultivation. Besides, as the labourer is almost the only grower of these provisions for sale, he of course has the entire monopoly of the market.

The state of education continues prosperous. I believe there are upwards of twenty public schools in the parish, affording daily instruction to about 1500 children, besides many private schools. The principal is Manning's Free School, at Savannah-le-Mar, founded and supported by a bequest of the late J. Manning; an establishment admirably conducted by the Rev. D. Fidler, who instructs 173 children, about 100 of whom are free pupils. Seven of the other public schools are supported by the Vestry, and by the Society for Propagation of the Gospel. The other schools, many of which are sectarian, are, I believe, also well conducted and regularly attended. Indeed, the desire generally amongst the negroes to educate their children is extremely praiseworthy.

I approach the subject of crime with some degree of hesitation, from hearing, with regret, that in many districts it is increasing. In my last report on prisons, about six months since, I also stated the daily average number of prisoners in our gaol was, without an accurate calculation, double that of the previous year. Being anxious to learn the exact state of the matter, I have taken the trouble to calculate minutely, and find the average daily number in confinement during the year ending 1st June, 1840 was ten; and during the year ending 1st June instant, sixteen. This included the prisoners in the Kingston district prison, sent from this parish.

This increase, although large, is no true criterion of the degree of crime, particularly when it is known the parochial gaol is the receptacle for prisoners of all denominations, and is also used as a lock-up house. With a view of ascertaining a better data of the state of crime, I have made up the following table of cases at the Quarter Sessions since my residence in the parish, taken from my own minutes of proceedings, as well as from the records in the peace office. It is as follows:—

Quarter Sessions.	Total No. of Persons Tried.		Persons Convicted.		Acquitted.
	Larceny.	Misdem.	Larceny.	Misdem.	Larceny.
1838.—October	12	4	11	4	1
1839.—January	12	3	7	3	5
April	4	2	2	2	2
July	5	1	4	1	1
October	1	1	0	1	1
1840.—January	9	0	5	0	4
April	7	2	7	2	0
July	6	1	3	1	3
October	6	2	6	2	0
1841.—January	7	6	6	6	1
April	6	1	6	1	0

It is perhaps unnecessary to consider whether these numbers exhibit an increase or otherwise. It is beyond dispute, however, that the number at the last four sessions, although a trifling increase on the four quarters preceding, is itself a great decrease upon the former year. Certain also is it, as it must be truly gratifying to all, particularly to those engaged in the administration of justice, that so small a degree of crime exists in the parish. When we reflect that out of a population estimated in the year 1840 at upwards of 20,000, the greatest number of convictions for larceny at any Quarter Sessions for the last two years was seven, and of persons tried nine, we cannot but commend our peasantry, nor can we in justice withhold from their character the meed of praise in this respect. It may be supposed that many cases are sent to the Assizes; but these also I have ascertained, and find that, for the period to which the foregoing table refers, the total number of prisoners sent to the Assize Court was

nine, two of whom are not yet tried; so that the ratio has been less than one in each quarter.

Being desirous of furnishing this report so soon as I collected the returns of the crop, I trust his Excellency will pardon any omission which I may have made.

Capt. J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
THOS. ABBOTT,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

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Enclosure 13, in No. 18.

Sir,

Saint Elizabeth, 1st July, 1841.

I HAVE waited the result of the last crop to report the state of the southern district of this parish, as directed in your Circular, No. 994. Encl. 13, in No. 18.

The crop (coffee) generally realised has been small; not exceeding, on most estates, one-half of the general average crops, owing to the failure of the usual seasons.

From the same cause, the cultivation of ground provisions has failed to a far greater extent; and so great, indeed, has been the drought for some months, that water had become a luxury rather than a necessary of life. Since the 1st of June, we have, however, experienced copious showers, which have, in a great measure, relieved us of a serious evil. The cultivation is recovered, and there is at present every prospect that the ensuing crop will be abundant.

The distress and privation that has been endured by the inhabitants generally, but more particularly the small settlers; in consequence of the calamity above-mentioned, and from the effects of which we are still labouring as regards the supply of ground provisions, is deplorable beyond description. These wants have in some measure been supplied by a constant and extensive importation of flour and corn-meal, upon which most of the inhabitants of this district have entirely existed for some months, depending upon their daily earnings for the means of procuring such articles, at an enormous profit to the shopkeepers.

The less industrious and improvident, I am sorry to say, have resorted for the means of existence to the commission of some serious depredations on the property of their neighbours, in the shape of trespass and robbery; and, from almost daily occurrences, it cannot be denied in this respect that crime has increased to a vast extent. It may be inferred that distress has been the cause of the greater proportion of offences; and I hope I may not be wrong in concluding, that with the returning seasons and means of subsistence, that crime will again decrease.

I have not heard of any difficulty in procuring labour upon the properties, where an adequate remuneration has been offered. The price of labour has, as usual, advanced, from the scanty supply and increased price of all the necessaries of life.

As regards the desire of the people to establish themselves upon small freeholds, and to have their children instructed, there can be no doubt that such feelings are universal; but the distress that has recently prevailed has checked the means by which such desirable objects have been hitherto acquired.

Capt. J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
JOHN GURLEY, S. J. P.

Enclosure 14, in No. 18.

REPORT on the Progress of Agriculture in the Parish of St. James's, Jamaica, for the Six Months ending 31st August, 1841.

Montego Bay, 6th September, 1841.

HAVING, in our former separate reports, entered considerably into detail as to the progress of agriculture, and other incidental matters, in the parish of St. James, we propose, in our present joint report, shortly to recapitulate the information already transmitted, with such alterations as may have occurred since the last return was made. Encl. 14, in No. 18.

The general rate of wages throughout the parish still continues at one shilling and sixpence per day; but field labour is usually done by the job or piece, at such sums as may be agreed upon by the parties: two shillings and sixpence sterling per hundred holes is the usual allowance for cane-hole digging. The weekly charge for house and grounds varies from two shillings to three shillings to those receiving wages at the rate of one shilling and sixpence per day; but on some properties no rent is charged, on condition of the labourers being contented with one shilling per day of wages.

The continued prevalence of dry weather during the last year has materially affected the crop now finished; but it is believed that the average crop throughout the parish may be stated as nearly the same as that of the preceding year. The seasons, for the last few months, have been extremely favourable, except in the sea-side district; and there is, therefore, every reason to hope that the next crop will considerably exceed the one just finished.

Having, in former reports, detailed at some length the establishment of villages or townships at Goodwill, Maldon, Ramble, and Mount Horeb, and the purchase of detached portions of land by the people in the neighbourhood of Bandon, and along the range of mountains towards Westmoreland, where they have been actively employed in clearing the ground and forming

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settlements for themselves, it is now unnecessary for us to offer any further observations upon these points.

The people generally have conducted themselves with great order and propriety; and the 1st of August, which is always celebrated as the anniversary of their freedom, passed over on this occasion without those noisy demonstrations with which it was usually welcomed. They are in general anxious to procure employment; and when that cannot be obtained on the properties to which they were formerly attached, they seek for it on the adjoining estates, and when the usual rate of wages is offered there seems to be little or no difficulty in procuring a sufficient supply of continuous labour. The people have always shown a great reluctance to leave the estates on which they have been born or brought up; and were their houses kept in proper repair, and adequate grounds provided, at a fair rent, for raising provisions, there would be little or no risk of their deserting to other properties.

It must be evident, indeed, that the establishment of villages for the labourers, whether as tenants or independent settlers, must always be of great benefit in the neighbourhood of estates, as the people will naturally prefer working near their own homes, rather than have to walk a distance of six or eight miles before coming to their task.

The internal commerce of the colony has increased to a very great extent within the last few years, in consequence of the improved means of the labouring population; and large stores, or shops, have been established in the interior of the parish, both by merchants from the town and by the managers of properties under the superintendence of overseers or book-keepers.

We believe that as much attention has been paid to the spread of education in this parish as in most other parts of the island; and, although the clergy of different denominations have zealously co-operated in a work so useful, yet we are sorry to say that the means of education are still very deficient. In former reports we have specified the various schools in different parts of the parish, which still continue in operation.

WALTER FINLAYSON, S. J. P.
HENRY LAIDLAW, S. J. P.

Enclosure 15, in No. 18.

Sir,

Trelawny, 16th September, 1841.

Encl. 15, in No. 18.

I HAVE the honour to forward the following report for the information of his Excellency the Governor, and in obedience to your Circular, No. 994.

In my report, dated October, 1840, I stated that, in consequence of the severe drought that so long prevailed in this parish, it was the general opinion that there would be a considerable decrease in the number of hogsheads of sugar manufactured this year, when compared to that of the previous; this, I regret to state, has been the case on most of the sugar estates, with the exception of a few in the interior of the parish, where the seasons have been more favourable for the cultivation of the canes than those estates situated nearer the sea-side.

In consequence of the unusual duration of dry weather above alluded to, the plants for the present crop were, on most estates, much injured; and on some properties to such an extent as to render it necessary to replant the fields, in some instances two or three times: thus, the decrease of sugar may, in a great measure, be attributed to causes over which the manager or labourer had no control.

The rate of wages paid to the labourer still continue the same, varying from one shilling and eight-pence to three shillings and four-pence currency per day; job-work is usually adopted, as being most satisfactory to the employer and employed. I hear no complaints made relative to the want of labourers throughout the parish; on a neighbouring estate, the attorney has informed me that the cane-fields are in a state of such good cultivation, that he has no employment for the people.

The general conduct of the peasantry continues to be orderly and quiet; at the two last courts of Quarter Sessions held in Falmouth, there were more cases for trial than usual, but the delinquents in most cases were not residents of this parish: in alluding to this fact, the chairman of Quarter Sessions stated, "that the extent of the calendar had excited his surprise, but, upon inquiry, he found that many of the persons convicted were not denizens of this parish, but came from a distance to carry on their evil life."

From the great decrease in the number of persons committed to the house of correction for punishment, induces me to think that crime must be on the decrease also; I beg to annex the following return, showing the total number committed during the last four years:—

Number of persons committed, from 30th December, 1837, to 30th	
December, 1838	327
Number committed from December, 1838, to December, 1839	109
Total during two years	<u>436</u>

Number of persons committed, from 1st September, 1839, to 1st

Although the dates of the above return do not correspond, still it proves that the total number of persons committed for punishment have been yearly diminishing.

The cases brought before the magistrates at our courts of petty-sessions are in general of a very trivial nature. Since September, 1840, to date, I have, with other justices, adjudicated on upwards of 880 cases, when such parties as were convicted have invariably paid the fine imposed, without resistance to the authority of any one.

I beg to state I write from my sick couch, from which I am at present totally unable to move; but as the packet has arrived, I deem it proper to forward any information I could obtain. I trust His Excellency will pardon the briefness of this report.

I have, &c.

DANIEL W. KELLY, Stipendiary Justice.

Captain J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

· Enclosure 16, in No. 18.

Sir,

Hanover, November, 1841.

IN complying with your circular letter, No 994, of the 1st August, 1840, I have the honour to communicate the following particulars with reference to the state of agriculture and the progress of our new social system.

Encl. 16, in No. 18.

I am happy in being enabled to state that the unprecedented drought, which last year so seriously affected other parts of the island, and from which such disastrous results accrued, was not of such duration and intensity in this parish as to add to the difficulties which were inseparable from the establishment of the new system upon a wholesome and proper foundation.

The last sugar crop in this parish exceeded the preceding year's; and, through the beneficence of Providence, the expected crops, now shortly to be commenced, promise the most cheering results to the agriculturalists.

From the fields in cultivation, the genial seasons with which we have been cheered and favoured, as well as to the better understood relative position of master and labourer, a material increase of crops is expected on all the sugar estates: in many instances double the quantity, in others an increase by one-third, whilst there are but few properties which will not yield an augmentation of one-fourth on their last returns. On the whole, I can safely say that the present prospects of the planters are cheering and satisfactory, the condition of the labourer, improving and happy; whilst the general results, as affecting the success of freedom in the colony, and the consequent great interests of humanity and justice involved in that measure, promise to enlightened legislation a matchless triumph, and to the British nation imperishable renown.

If it were possible adequately to describe the rapid improvements which have taken place, and the wonderfully ameliorated condition of society generally, since the advent of freedom, the readers at a distance might be disposed to ascribe even a faithful representation to an attempt to practise on their credulity.

I shall not presume to say that individual or partial interests have not suffered from our altered condition; but I unhesitatingly affirm that the general happiness and prosperity have been accelerated, promoted, and consolidated upon a just, rational, and durable basis.

There is one difficulty which now threatens us, but which I have hopes will be overcome in some measure with the assistance of the tide of AFRICAN IMMIGRATION now setting in, as well as the better understanding now subsisting between employers and the present labourers, namely, the gathering in of the increased crops; and here I may observe, that although the plough and other improved methods of farming, which the fertile genius of freedom has introduced, have in some respects superseded manual labour in the cultivation of the fields, yet there has not been that corresponding improvement and addition of machinery in the manufactories which the requirements of free labour should have suggested. But even here I do not despair, as there are visible indications abroad of this difficulty being partially relieved, if not entirely overcome.

This being the first general report that I have furnished since my arrival (after an absence in England of twelve months), I trust I may be pardoned for adverting to the alterations which so forcibly struck me on a visit that I made to the parish of Saint Thomas-in-the-East, where I had been stationed previous to my departure. In travelling through the parish (in August, 1840), I was astonished and delighted to perceive the number of settlements and cottages that had sprung up right and left, in places before overgrown in bush and jungle; the improved construction in the cottages, the enlargement of the different villages, the number of new shops and houses that had arisen in the rural towns, and general improved appearance and comfort of the labouring population, all afforded satisfactory evidence of the rapid but sure blessings which followed the establishment of general freedom.

In the parish of Hanover, a new township, called "Phoenix Town," has been established; two

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"Phoenix Town," on Phoenix Estate, the lessee (whose assurance I have) can at all times command more labourers than he can give employment to; one of the effects of which is to increase his crops materially; and there is now on the ground a larger crop than has been taken off there for ten years past!

The return, which I had lately the honour to send in, of the comparative convictions for three years in the courts of quarter-sessions, exhibits a paucity of crime almost unexampled in any other country, or among any other people. There is a continued desire on the part of parents to educate their children; they freely avail themselves of the increased facilities afforded; and time will, I trust, develop the benefits of this important subject.

I have, &c.

R. CHAMBERLAINE, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Captain J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 17, in No. 18.

Sir,

Montego Bay, 6th July, 1841.

Encl. 17, in No. 11.

AGREEABLY to his Excellency's commands, I have the honour to transmit the half-yearly report of the parish of St. James up to the 1st current, which may be very short indeed.

I conceive it to be unnecessary to intrude on his Excellency a recapitulation of the report already submitted to the governor's notice, but as far as my own observation goes, or the information of others extend, the circumstances of the labourers are progressively favourable; and I hope I may be allowed to say, that they could not have been expected to have been rapidly so, when everything is taken into consideration; that everything is not as his Excellency might hope for is more to be wished than expected; the comparatively increasing smoothness with which matters have lately rolled on, must be a source of great consolation to every one in the smallest degree interested in the welfare of the parish, or of the island at large; and as the future can only be guessed at by comparison of the past with the present, we have the high satisfaction of anticipating a continued improvement.

I have, &c.,

Captain J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

G. M. LAWSON, Senior Magistrate,
St. James.

Enclosure 18, in No. 18.

Sir,

Manchester, 30th June, 1841.

Encl. 18, in No. 18.

IN conformity with the instructions of his Excellency the governor, it now becomes my duty to report with reference to the parish of Manchester:—

The principal point to which I am desirous of drawing attention is the progress made in the settlement of townships by the labouring population. Exclusive of various small establishments, there are now at least seven villages deserving of that appellation. The number of people located in each I will not attempt to estimate, but it must be matter of regret, as I have previously stated, that no legislative enactment exists to aid the accomplishment of a proper knowledge of the numbers. Yet I think I am within bounds, when I state that one half the families formerly attached to plantations in this parish have a direct interest in the small freeholds to which I now refer. The demand for small lots of land still continues. The payments for these lots are made in cash, and the prices appear to be gradually increasing. Under these circumstances, it would have been but reasonable to apprehend, that not only the whole of the labour of those who had already purchased should have been withdrawn from the large plantation, but that they should, judging from the rapid advancement of their buildings and plantations, have induced other labourers who could not afford to buy, to give their labour for hire to their former fellow-slaves.

It may be useful and interesting to inquire whether this has been the fact or not—I believe not. But while I express this opinion, I must admit, that in certain districts in which the sale of land has unfortunately been opposed, a deficiency of labour has prevailed. But generally on properties, as far as my observation will enable me to judge (and I have used my exertions to ascertain the truth) labour is progressing satisfactorily, where prompt payment and proper arrangements can be effected.

Experienced planters well know the difficulties, and labour, and privations, and great expense of establishing plantations from the woods. They know the misery of dependence on pathways for the conveyance of their supplies. They know the primary difficulties of maintaining animals to aid in their labours and promote their comforts, and they can well estimate the expense of forming proper roads. Such difficulties as these, and many others which I might enumerate, have been encountered by the mass of the people of this parish. It would appear wonderful to those whose knowledge of the physical power of the negro is only confined to his unremunerated specimens of labour during slavery and apprenticeship, how so much could have been accomplished on the small lot of land in building, planting, digging ponds, and making fences, as has been done without entailing an entire cessation of labour on the plantations of the larger proprietors. Certainly this has not been the result—and why? I humbly submit for consideration the reason: it is because his emancipation from bondage,

his new hopes, his new desires, his new responsibilities, in short, his newly-born ambition, stimulates him to exertions, of which those who formerly knew the "Negro character" believed him incapable. His bodily powers, by the application of a money power, are multiplied beyond calculation. He can now labour on his own plantation, and spare time to labour on the plantations of others, and for the establishment of this assertion, I confidently appeal to those who know the real state of the old plantations in Manchester.

I now refer to a former opinion which I ventured to state, that labour in the neighbourhood of established townships is cheaper than elsewhere. That opinion, speaking from further experience, appears to me correct. But I will now go further, and state, that labour may be obtained at reasonable prices from townships but partially established. How does this arise? I think the reason sufficiently obvious. The desire to become independent in location (from causes which it has happily become, in a majority of instances, needless to trace) predominates to such a degree, that many who can save money enough to pay for the small lots of land, exhaust their funds in doing so. Others, richer perhaps, find the expense of building, planting, &c., or, in other words, of maintaining themselves by the expenditure of money during the process, beyond their previous computation. They therefore are compelled to seek the means of subsistence, or of the completion of their houses, &c., by an offer of their labour to those who fortunately have the means of remunerating them in money. If in this early stage such a fact can be established, how great ground is there for the encouragement of the timid capitalist, to expect that there will annually be an increasing supply of labour for the cultivation, and even the extension of the cultivation, of the country. Add to this certainty, that under such a system the population must increase most rapidly: the knowledge that the bodily power of each person who was formerly known as a slave has already increased wonderfully, and then I think no alarm need spread about the insufficiency of labour to carry on the cultivation, if sufficient capital can be found to encourage the labourers in their present peaceable and obedient course, and to protect them from the ills and corruption which an absence of honest encouragement might entail.

I confess I have apprehensions that the convulsion which at present prevails in the money market (want of confidence has, I fear, imprudently been both here and in England, from various causes which I here forbear for I hope sufficient reasons, to trace, existed among the proprietary body) may have a most injurious effect on the progress of cultivation. All depends on a prompt remuneration in cash for labour performed, provided that labour be not effected on the labourer's own land. If he cannot obtain money as soon as worked for, he will submit to any privation, and trust to the produce of his land for remuneration in preference to giving credit to individuals.

Let us see what the small settlers have accomplished, in averting for a time the evil of which I am apprehensive. Their lots have been paid for in money. The absent proprietors generally have opposed the sale of lands. The proceeds therefore of the sales have not, as in the case of the compensation, been withdrawn from the country to its detriment. They have been put into the hands of men compelled to live in the country, and have found their way into circulation for the benefit of the country. I believe the price of an acre has been between four and six pounds sterling, exclusive of surveying and other expenses. And if this be the case, those who have seen the extent of the new townships may form some idea of the amount of money dug up, principally from the slaves' hoard, and put into circulation under a free operation. But the extent of the relief to the demand for money does not end here. The daily expenses of his new establishment must be defrayed; money must be taken to the store for the clothing, food, &c., of those even who are disinclined, or who are too independent to work for the large plantations. Lastly, I annex an official memorandum of the increase of tax payers from 1836 to March, 1841. Imperfect as the return is to show the actual number having landed possessions, it is valuable to prove the numbers who have willingly pointed out their possessions for taxation, who are ready to bear their proportion of the public burdens and public duties.

The parish is happily relieved by beautiful rains. The crops of coffee will not, as far as my information leads me to expect, be very large, but considerably larger than they have been for the last three years. The extension of new plants has been greater than I could, without a minute inspection of the new townships, have anticipated; certainly they are much greater than I in my last despatch supposed. It is matter of consolation to my feelings to see the population of this parish, so lately held in slavery, settling down on lands held in their own right, into an independent society, ready after their settlements are complete, to furnish their redundant labour for adequate remuneration, ready to be moulded by just and equal laws, by kind and considerate treatment, into a happy and contented peasantry, or, as their means may be applicable, into a powerful body, for the control of the best interests of the country. I can still appeal to the ministers of religion, to testify as to their continued desire to obtain religious and general knowledge, for themselves and their children. And I appeal to the prison returns, for testimony of their peaceable and orderly conduct.

I have, &c.

J. GRANT, Stipendiary Magistrate

Number of tax payers in the parish of Manchester in the year	1836	387
"	1837	393
"	1838	438
In the year (no taxes)	1839	not given in.
"	1840	1321
"	1841	1866

(Signed)

C. M. INGRAM, Clerk of the Vestry.

JAMAICA.

Enclosure 19, in No. 18.

Manchester, October, 1841.

Encl. 19, in No. 18.

Sir,

My periodical Report of the state of the parish of Manchester is now due. Although I have little to add to my previous observations, yet I have great satisfaction in stating that my hopes and expectations and opinions set forth, have in the most material points been fully supported by the experience of the past half-year.

Long and painful illness has greatly interfered with my accustomed occupations, and I must confess myself, in consequence, less acquainted with the local occurrences than I might otherwise have been.

I am, however, enabled to report that the progress of agriculture has been more satisfactory than could, under the pecuniary distress which has so generally prevailed, and respecting which I felt bound to express my apprehension, have been expected. The rains have been constant and favourable, and the planters seem to expect a tolerable crop of coffee. Picking has partially commenced.

But few emigrants have been introduced into the parish: yet I have the strongest apprehension that the class of persons which has been imported must present a most unfavorable example to the black population, and I have reason to suppose, that even in this mild climate, were the importation of people such as these adopted on a large scale, the sacrifice of life would, from their constant exposure as field labourers, be unwarrantable and appalling. Such an importation, too, at the prevailing costs, would soon exhaust the funds granted to the proprietors as compensation for their slaves. I confess myself at a loss to understand how the importation of white people, with their accustomed wants and habits, could, with reference to the present rate of wages, have the immediate effect of reducing the prices.

In making this statement, I must not be understood to profess the opinion that an increase of population from wholesome immigration would not be beneficial. Most earnestly do I desire that the character of the country, by just and wise government, and successful agricultural operations, be so raised, and that confidence in its resources should be so established, as to induce small capitalist to immigrate here, and to invest their means in the purchase of land, and thus confer efficient aid, and permanent benefit, on the best interests of the island. Such a population would, as a consequence, be more enlightened and of higher character than those now brought here at enormous expense.

The unprecedented dry weather which has prevailed has caused the most disastrous consequences. The short crops, and some other reason which I am unwilling to repeat, has shaken the confidence of the English capitalist, and the withdrawal of funds, will, I fear, unless a better understanding speedily takes place, in too many instances affect the amount of the coming crops. A prompt supply of money will undoubtedly secure every berry. The succeeding rains have induced much sickness among all classes in the parish of Manchester, but I think the reports of extensive mortality, among the black labourers particularly, has been greatly exaggerated. My opinion is that, in the township, they are steadily and rapidly on the increase. I am also assured that they are anxious to secure, and are securing on fair terms, the advice and aid of medical men.

The progress of the various townships is rapid and satisfactory, and the supply of labour emanating from these villages more and more abundant. On this head I have much pleasure in referring to my last Report.

The desire for education continues unabated. The schools are generally well attended. It is, however, my painful duty to mention, that some of the National Schools in this parish, from some cause which I do not presume to detail, have ceased to be useful.

With reference to the state of crime, the return which I have lately had the honour of transmitting, shows an increase applicable to the general population. I cannot, however, consider that in a population of 25,000, twenty-three convictions in Quarter Sessions, for every description of offence in one year, affords any just ground for alarm.

The coffee crop lately shipped has been rendered very small by the alarming dry weather of the previous seasons.

It is not, I hope, foreign to the proper purposes of this Report, that I should mention that the roads have fallen into serious disrepair. It would appear that there is a large sum of money due to them, but as the Road Law seems deficient in a proper provision for working out the road taxes and grants, the interest of the country, I venture to suggest, demands effective legislation on this important point.

I have, &c.,

J. GRANT, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Richard Hill, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 20, in No. 18.

Sir,

Windward District, Parish of Saint Ann, 15th September, 1841.

Encl. 20, in No. 18.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my Report under date of the 31st of March last, since which I am happy to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the pleasing indication and the anticipations then held out, of a favourable crop of sugar this year in this district, will be most fully maintained; indeed there is every appearance that when the crop is terminated, the result will exceed in the total the number of hogsheads previously

calculated upon. The cultivation of the sugar cane have been greatly extended, and the fields better concentrated towards the vicinity of the works the contingent expenses will therefore be diminished in a proportionate ratio.

There is no alteration in the price of labour, which remains as stated in my report of 31st August, 1840.

Ground and other cultivated provisions, the staple articles of food for the consumption and support of the labouring population generally, and as articles of traffic with them, have been more abundant lately, in consequence of the favourable rains and seasons for planting, and hence a temporary want of labour has been partially experienced by some of the estates, many of the people having been engaged in the cultivation of their own fields. Verdure and vegetation exhibits the most pleasing aspect and satisfactory proof of the dispensation of a bountiful and divine Providence.

The pimento-crop, which is nearly concluded, is likely to be a plentiful one. The gathering in of the crops has caused an abstraction of labour from, and partial suspension of, the manufacturing of sugar for some weeks, the people giving a preference to this sort of employment, when they can earn with ease, when the trees have borne well, two shillings to four shillings per day sterling.

Crimes have rather diminished taking together the trials in the Quarter and Petty Sessions; and when it is considered that in a parish comprising 243,761 acres of land, and a slave population of 24,821, in the year 1833, as by returns to the vestry, and that very many of the cases now adjudicated in the courts, were formerly punished by the master or his agent, it reflects great credit, and speaks much in favour of the good conduct generally, of a peasantry recently released from the degrading and abject state of slavery.

So far as present appearances indicate there is every prospect of the ensuing crop of sugar, exceeding the present in quantity, if the weather continues favourable.

The progress of the rural population in establishing themselves as small freeholders proceed rapidly on the increase; the people, however, do not hesitate to work for money wages when not engaged in the cultivation of their own lands.

The culture of the mulberry-tree in the plantations mentioned in my last, for the feeding of the silk-worm and production of raw-silk is, I am glad to say, in a very improved condition. Notwithstanding some pecuniary obstacles at the commencement, the planting manager informed me that there are now 130 acres planted; the trees are in a most flourishing and luxuriant state, and with every prospect of ultimately proving a beneficial concern to the proprietors. It is intended, he said, to establish 350 acres in the aggregate, and that one in cocoonery would be completed in a few days hence, when he would commence the making of raw silk. He exhibited two beautiful samples of white and yellow, and spoke of the soil as being completely adapted for the purposes contemplated.

The bad conduct of the domestic servants is still a matter of complaint.

The progress of education in the different schools are favourable, and with an augmentation of scholars in all the seminaries. The Branch National School, lately established at Saint Anne's Bay excepted, on which there is a reduction in consequence of several of the scholars having left to become artisans.

There are many of the breeding and grazing pens, and pimento plantations in the same neglected state as last represented.

I have, &c.,

J. WOOLFRIES, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Captain Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 21, in No. 18.

Sir,

Alley Vere, 7th October. 1841.

I BEG leave to transmit my half-yearly Report of the state of Agriculture in this parish, with such other information required from me by his Excellency the Governor. Encl. 21, in No. 18.

From the favourable weather we have had for the last four months, the labourers have met with constant employment on every state, at the rate of one shilling to one and sixpence sterling per day; and from what I can learn, there is no difficulty in obtaining as many labourers as are required to cultivate the properties at this price; one and sixpence being the sum usually demanded in those districts where not so well populated as in many others.

It has been observed by some of the oldest planters, that from the present appearance of the canes, which are thriving luxuriantly, they will return from three to four thousand hogsheads of sugar, if this month proves equally propitious, whereas four hundred hogsheads were not realized last year from the unprecedented drought which continued for such a length of time, that some estates did not yield one hogshead of sugar, when it is fully expected that that those very properties will produce from one hundred to one hundred and twenty this crop.

The lately emancipated still continue purchasing small freeholds wherever land is offered for sale in this district; and I have not heard that this retards the cultivation of sugar, our only staple produce in the parish of Vere. I should think the contrary, as they generally are located close to the estates, and seem happy to get continuous employment.

* The villages are increasing both in size and population. The internal commerce is much the same as when I made my last report in April.

Education among the children of the peasantry, I am happy to say, is progressing rapidly.

F

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Crime we scarcely have, very little that is made either the subject of summary or sessional adjudication; and I will venture to assert, there is not a peasantry in the world better conducted, more civil, or more orderly in their demeanour, than those in Vere. The rent question, which caused so much bickering and animosity between landlord and tenant, is now happily at rest, and a good feeling generally exists between all parties.

I have, &c.

BERNARD MAHON, Stipendiary Magistrate.

J. M. Higginson, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 22, in No. 18.

Sir,

St. John's, 8th October, 1841.

Encl. 22, in No. 18.

I BEG leave to forward my periodical Report on the state of agriculture of the parish of St. John's, for the information of his Excellency the Governor. A gradual improvement in the feelings subsisting between the employer and employed has taken place since my last Report, which has been attended by beneficial results, and that system of indirect coercion unfortunately attempted by most managers at the commencement of freedom, has generally given way to the example of more liberal men, and their experience of the fact, that people just emerged from slavery were not likely, and would not bear what had formed its very essence,—this has now happily almost disappeared, and I may safely assert that I do not think the body of managers in this parish would attempt to force labour, either by exorbitant rent or inadequate payment for work done. This has, as a natural consequence, established a feeling of more confidence on the other side, which has rendered the management of estates more safe, labour more uniform, and results more certain. Cases of disputes between the employer and labourer for rent and payment of wages, the two fruitful sources of former litigation, have now greatly diminished in the local courts. This parish did not suffer so much as most others during the late drought, which, together with a fair command of labour, will, I trust, make the present crop a good average one; the prospects for next year are most cheering, and a large increase may be fairly expected; the price of labour here varies so little that I may say the sum of one shilling and sixpence sterling, for an able labourer for nine hours' work, is universal, but the mode now most common, and found most beneficial to all parties, is that of "job work," at which the people cheerfully labour. I have been credibly informed that on well-managed estates, where the plough has been employed, and all the old, and now unnecessary expenses, are curtailed, the usual crops can be maintained at little more than the sum paid for "contingencies" during slavery. I have reason to believe that job-work is so universal in this parish, that labour is very rarely undertaken on any other system; and I am pleased to say that the regularity to which it has given rise, has allayed much of former heartburnings.

In conclusion, I beg to state that numerous small settlements are rising on all sides, which has already given the face of the country a more cheerful and populated appearance, and I have no reason to think these settlers have withdrawn their labour from the cultivation of the staples of the island; indeed I am aware these persons do give their surplus time, after the cultivation of their provision grounds, where they can find the nearest and best market. Great anxiety is generally shown by all classes of the peasantry to have their children educated, and where opportunities are afforded, they gladly avail themselves of them, to enable their offspring to enjoy a blessing of which most of them keenly feel the want, and of which their own situation in early life debarred them for partaking; with this feeling so universal, I regret that more opportunities are not put within their reach; but as a great improvement in this respect has taken place within the last few years, it is to be hoped it will continue to increase, and that the first generation of Jamaica freemen will at least have the opportunity of universal education.

I have, &c.

P. O. REULTY, Stipendiary Justice.

Captain J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 23, in No. 18.

Heathfield, St. Thomas in the Vale;
12th October, 1841.

Sir,

Encl. 23, in No. 18.

It was my duty to report last year, that the crops had fallen off in the parish of St. Thomas in the Vale, and I then anticipated that the causes to which I attributed the deficiency would affect the crop of the present year. Such has been the case, yet I am exceedingly gratified to state that, notwithstanding that fact, the sugar and rum crops, which have just been taken off in this parish, are fully equal to the average of the apprenticeship crops, and my observations, and the information which I have received, lead me to expect, that if we are blessed with seasons as favourable as they generally are, and no unforeseen occurrence intervenes to blight the present prospects, the estates in this parish will, in 1842, or at furthest in 1843, yield as large crops as they generally did in the days of slavery. It is certain that a

increase the staple productions of the island to an extent far beyond what they have ever yet attained. When enterprise and capital shall have been obtained, then a further supply of labour may be found necessary, but at present, I believe, the supply is quite adequate to the demand.

As by common consent, the price of labour has been fixed at one shilling and sixpence per day for able people; weaker hands range from that price downwards. Complaints are sometimes made that the work is sluggishly performed and insufficient, but job-work effectually obviates this evil, and I am glad to perceive that it is very generally resorted to. The rent question is settled in this parish, the general rate, where rent is charged (for on several properties it is not), is a shilling per week for each cottage, and as much more for provision grounds.

I consider it to be now generally admitted, that a sugar-estate can be cultivated with free labour as cheaply and as profitably as under the exploded slave system; whenever I have asked the question, the answer has always been either in favour of free labour, or that the difference is very little, and in the latter case, I have invariably found that the interest of the compensation (which is seldom regarded in making the calculation) thrown in the scale, is sufficient to turn the balance decidedly in favour of freedom, nor is the rental of the negro cottages (no inconsiderable sum) always taken into the account. That this result has been realized in so short a period of time must be exceedingly gratifying to every good man, particularly when he contemplates the benefit as progressively improving and extending itself, and permanent in its character; that property, no longer subject to the internal gnawings of slavery, is now free from all these attacks and alarms which were ever endangering its existence and reducing its value.

By way of ascertaining the progress of the rural population in establishing themselves as small freeholders, I referred to the tax-rolls of the parish, and found that the number of freeholds under ten acres, on the 28th day of March, 1840, amounted to 405, and that in twelve months after, they had increased to 887, to which I think may be added at least 200 more, which were not given in separately, but were included in the returns as part and parcel of the properties to which they originally belonged. Assuming the number of small settlements in this parish which have been purchased by lately liberated slaves up to the 28th of March last, to be only 800, and since that time 200 more, I estimate that the number of persons liberated by the Emancipation Act located upon these settlements, cannot be less than 7,000. By a return, presented to the House of Assembly on the 19th of December, 1834, the number of apprentices valued in this parish are shown to have been 10,352, so that after allowing 3,648 as increase, without any deduction for deaths, it appears, if my calculation is correct, that about one-half of them are residing on lands either belonging to themselves or their relatives. It may be thought that my estimate is too high, I almost mistrust it myself, yet I beg to observe that there are generally three or four cottages erected on each of these little patches of land sufficient to accommodate a negro's family, which is not to be computed like an Englishman's. It is not confined to his wife and children, but embraces his own and his wife's father, mother, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, or some of them, and frequently more distant relatives, according to the circumstances of the parties.

There is a diversity of opinion as to the effect that these settlements have on the steady supply of labour, as those who purchase land are, for the most part, men of the best character and skill; I dare say that the time devoted to their own affairs frequently causes inconvenience to the estate where they were formerly resident, not so much by the withdrawal of their mere labour, as by the loss (even for a time) of their experience, influence, and local efficiency; but upon the whole, I see no reason to alter the opinion expressed by me last year, "that the owners of these small settlements spend little more time on them than they were in the habit of doing on the estates negro-grounds," further than to except the females from its full scope. The proprietor of an estate in this parish tells me that every one of the late apprentices had left the property and located themselves elsewhere, the greater part on adjacent lands purchased from him, and that he can at all times obtain as many labourers as he requires. Upon another estate where about sixty acres of land has been cut up and sold in small lots, I am informed that more people flock to the fields than are required, so much so that the gangs have been limited, and the superintendents desired to reject all applicants beyond the prescribed number.

I have, &c.

Captain J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

T. W. JACKSON, Stipendiary Justice.

Enclosure 24, in No. 18.

Sir,

Woodhall Pen, St. Dorothy, Jamaica,
From 1st Sept. to 1st Oct. 1841.

His Excellency must expect that this, my third half-yearly Report, in some respects, Encl. 24, in No. 18, must of consequence be a repetition of the former ones.

The price of agricultural labour is about one shilling and sixpence sterling, descending to nine-pence per day, and day labour is more general than task work in this parish; it appears, however, to go on smoothly enough, considering the number and tempers of the labourers employed in some of these gangs. The plough is in general use in this parish, and enables the planter to put in 60 acres, where he formerly put in only 20 acres of canes, the land is of course improved by the necessarily increased number of horned stock, it has also decreased the number

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of hands formerly required for digging; it is therefore an improved point in the agriculture of this country, from the paucity of the population. I have not heard any well-founded complaints of want of a sufficient number of labourers this year, but I have heard many complaints of a want of money to pay them with, and if emigration does not increase the population to an amount I believe unhopd for by the most sanguine well-wisher to its success, I am afraid the want of money will considerably decrease the cultivation of the staples mentioned in the Circular of 1st August, 1840.

The silk-worm establishment in this parish appears to promise success with care and patience. Should it do so, the abandoned cane-field may eventually yield mulberry-leaves, and the buildings become adapted for rearing worms, and spinning silk.

I am sorry that I must confirm the prediction in my last Report of the ruinously small crops in this parish made this year. I believe that about one-third of the former crop covers the amount, being about 200 tons of sugar, 100 puncheons of rum, and 40 tierces of coffee. The prospects, however, for the approaching crop are immense, the weather having been most favourable for the large quantity of land turned by the plough, and otherwise. I have heard gloomy anticipations of a shortness of hands to take off this fine crop; however, from the peculiar fondness of this kind of manufacture, I have no such fear. Small quantities of land continue to be purchased by settlers, and though not to the same degree as at first, after the expiration of the Abolition Act, still sufficiently numerous are the purchases by apparently the poorer labourers, to surprize any traveller from Great Britain, where labourers do not often, from inability, save money. Most of the respectable labourers possess land and cultivate it on Saturdays, when not employed on estates; it is therefore to be expected as their families increase, that numerous small freeholds will rather add to than diminish the number of respectable labourers, particularly if situated on the borders or adjacent to large working properties.

The small villages are gradually increasing; and if the roads and means of carriage were more attended to, interior commerce would flourish; but from the increased price consequent on the difficulty of transports, mountaineers resort much to the low lands to purchase articles required. We have in this parish (one of the smallest in the island) two national schools where 120 children are instructed daily, besides Church Missionary, Baptist, and other seceders, where perhaps the same number are also instructed; these are all only instructed in the rudiments of a plain education and are progressing. There is still great difficulty in detecting criminals from the want of moral courage generally among the population, but I am happy to state that not more than five or six felonies per annum have occurred in this parish for two years; there are numerous petty session causes of assaults, indecent and disgusting language, &c.

There is a great mania for native preaching among the peasants seceding, (from the European Baptists,) and which is sometimes to be compared to the "blind leading the blind," judging from some of their private correspondence which I have perused, and which shows as great a want of education as need of proper places of religious worship.

I have, &c.

Captain J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

W. A. BELL, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Enclosure 25, in No. 18.

Sir,

Clarendou, 23rd November, 1841.

Encl. 25, in No. 18.

THE last Report sent to his Excellency the Governor by me gave a most distressing account of the prospects of the planters in this district of the island, and the then state of agricultural matters, resulting from the extraordinary continuance of dry weather.

The subject of the present communication is of a more agreeable nature, and will afford more satisfaction to parties interested in the late momentous changes which have occurred in the structure of society in this colony.

In May last the rain commenced to fall in this district, and has continued at short intervals ever since, until the land has been saturated to an extent hitherto seldom happening. The season of sugar-making is just about commencing, and the crop on most estates will be an average good one. As compared to the condition of the country last year, its present state and prosperity are truly wonderful.

During the time the country had been suffering under the late unprecedented drought the social relations of the agricultural portion of the community (though formed of materials at the first glance so discordant) continued in a state of the most perfect harmony.

The most observable difference between the state of things in Jamaica and in other countries (which have long been more happily situated) is to be found in the deficiency of domestic servants, the exorbitant wages paid them, and their consequent unsteadiness in their conduct and engagements. This, no doubt, has arisen from their affluence (in other countries so unusual) from the means they have of acquiring money by field labour, a species of employment they generally prefer as giving them more freedom from the restraint of domestic occupations. Judging the negro by the test of a comparison of the amount of labour done by him and the labourers in England or of the northern portions of Europe, he may be found to fall far short in industry; but as a labourer, he may challenge competition in the tropics, and he is undoubtedly as industrious as the generality of the inhabitants of warm climates. Isolated cases occur of European labourers in Jamaica far outstripping him in laborious work, though too certainly rewarded by premature death.

Jamaica is singularly situated in respect to the price of labour and food. The negro is so

temperate, and in food (of the coarse description he prefers) so sparing in its consumption, that unless, as in the extraordinary case of Vere during the last two years (when the cultivation of the ground roots used by the labourer ceased from want of rain to be resorted to) the price of labour is little, if at all, affected by the fluctuations in the price of food. The principal earnings of the negro are spent in luxuries and in the indulgence of their vanity. On "Seven Plantations" estate, in my immediate neighbourhood, (and the same, if not universal in Clarendon and Vere, is nearly similar on every estate,) the negroes, both males and females, are, with few exceptions, each of them in possession of a horse, and most expensive clothing, and many other expensive superfluities; the people on this estate are nevertheless the most orderly and industrious in the parish of Clarendon. The possession of so much wealth by the labourer, in some other countries might induce an abandonment of laborious pursuits, though such is not the effect here.

It might be inferred from these statements that this state of things in a pecuniary point of view, must necessarily be equally favourable to the European labourer. Such is not the case. The white man requires a portion of his diet to consist of animal food to support his enervated frame; the negro seldom uses it. The white man cannot, like the negro, exist on a sweet potato or a cocoa, and on the salt and refuse of a herring-barrel, nor can he live for weeks on the fruits of the country, as the negro labourer frequently does. The negro with impunity can go unclothed in all seasons, in the noonday sun or under the midnight damps, defying the rains, and inhaling the malaria of the swamps with perfect safety. It is well known how fatal all this would be to the European, yet I have known white emigrants ignorantly expose themselves unnecessarily to all these dangers. The necessities of life which the white labourer requires are precisely the same as in his native country (with the exception of firing) and these are only to be purchased at double the cost of the same articles in England, while his wages, estimating them at about one shilling and sixpence sterling per day, are not higher than the wages which may be procured in England, and are much lower than are usual in other colonies where the demand for labour is great, and the climate not of that dangerous description like the climate here. In this country, where sickness so much prevails, the charge to the poor for medicine and medical advice is from three to four times the price of the same in England; and with respect to food, the price of salt pork, not of the best quality, varies from one shilling and sixpence to one shilling sterling per pound. The price of yams, (used as a substitute for potatoes) has, within the last four years, varied from twelve shillings to eight shillings sterling per cwt. The cost of these articles sufficiently, as an example, proves the excessive cost of the necessities of life in this colony.

It is not to be inferred from these observations that I have any desire to retard the increase of population in Jamaica by emigration. The country is not sufficiently peopled; but by my report to you, dated 1st January, 1841, I then showed that the working population of Jamaica had been increased rather than diminished by the change of apprenticeship to freedom. I am satisfied that it is easy to prove that the colony cannot reap advantage from a system of emigration which drains it of capital, nor any permanent augmentation of the numbers of the population from the importation of white labourers, bound to servitude and depressed in spirit by disappointment—alternately the subject of the mockery of the free negro or the object of his pity. It is very possible that individual speculative proprietors of sugar estates and coffee properties, having great command of capital, may reap from this scheme a partial and present gain; but it would be difficult to show how the community can be benefited by the introduction of a population which (by deaths at the same ratio at which they have hitherto occurred) must, in less than ten years, disappear from the face of the earth.

I have, &c.

Captain J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

HALL PRINGLE, Stipendiary Magistrate,
Clarendon and Vere.

Enclosure 26, in No. 18.

Sir,

Highgate District, St. Mary, 25th October, 1841.

IN reply to your Circular, No. 994, calling for a report on the state of agriculture in this district, I have the honour to state—

1. Owing to the drought in the spring and summer of last year, the spring cane-plant was not established till much later than usual. The crop of this year, therefore, although greater than that of the preceding, will be extremely backward. I regret also to have to add that the same cause will have a like effect on the ensuing crop, although, from the general extension of the cane-fields, there is every likelihood of a progressive increase in the quantity of sugar made.

2. The provision lands of the labourers having also suffered, labour has been more abundant than usual, the price varying from one shilling and sixpence to two shillings and sixpence sterling per field task, completed in most instances by eleven or twelve o'clock. This is independent of an allowance of rum and sugar given on the greater number of estates.

3. There is an evident desire on the part of the negro to purchase land, particularly in the lower portion of the district, if the soil be good. And where purchases are made in the vicinity of estates the labour of the purchaser is not immediately withdrawn from the market; in fact, an impetus may for the time be given to it in providing the means wherewith to complete the terms of the purchase, and to establish the settler in his new home. But so soon as his house is finished and his provision crop at maturity, I am of opinion that his labour will generally be confined to his own freehold, as being sufficiently remunerative and attended with more independence.

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4. There have been no interior villages established in this district since the abolition of slavery, but there has been a considerable increase in the retail commerce of the country, occasioned by the expenditure of money-wages in the purchase of luxuries and those articles of food and clothing which were formerly imported from Great Britain by the proprietor, and furnished by law to the labourers.

5. The obligation to pay rent being now admitted by the peasantry, and the administration of the law being more uniform, from being better understood, all misunderstanding on this agitating question has ceased, and labour, where wages are regularly paid, is less capricious although still inadequate to the demand. There are, however, two causes which have operated against the ability of some of the planters to turn this favourable event to account. The first is, the compensation-money having been paid to the merchant at the termination of the apprenticeship. The second, the uncertainty which has existed with respect to the duration of the protective duties. The first has perhaps been consequent on the second; for as ninety-nine estates out of a hundred were under mortgage at the time, the mortgages or merchant, doubtful as to the result of the free system, and uncertain as to the duration of the protective duties, conceived, to use a vulgar adage, that "a bird in the hand was worth two in the bush," and therefore claimed the compensation-money, although the slightest reflection must have convinced him that in doing so he withdrew the very substitute which was given by the Government for the compulsory labour of the slave.

The crops, therefore, of many estates have decreased from the inability of the proprietor to pay for labour, whilst the crops of others, not intrinsically more productive, have increased from the opposite cause. It is certainly not the fact that the expenses contingent on sugar cultivation are now less than they were formerly, although I believe it to be unquestionable that they are far from being such as to be unprofitable in good soils and favourable seasons. But the success of the planter will depend mainly on the confidence of the merchant, for the chief expenses of sugar cultivation must be in advance of production at least fifteen months; and if there are not the means of sowing there cannot be the ability to reap.

As for the banks, the planter (I mean the planter with an estate, but without capital) has derived little benefit from their institution. They started with a paper circulation not redeemable in specie. On this they gave unlimited credit to speculators unconnected with the soil.

They preferred names with a floating cash credit, doing an enormous paper business, to names with a landed security, whose transactions were confined to the sure, but limited business of agricultural expenditure. One of their number, calculating on superior resources, some time after issued notes redeemable in specie. This at once brought credits to a cash arrangement; a general scramble for first payments was the result; and attachments under a law originating with the banking institutions, were summarily issued against the credit trader, on the most ordinary failure in the punctuality of business; a failure originally tolerated by the laxity of business-rules in this country, and necessarily consequent on a withdrawal from the trader of the cash or paper credit, from which alone had sprung his extensive but unsubstantial transactions.

These attachments brought the goods of the debtor to the hammer on a simple newspaper notice; and as the general panic obliged every one to close his accounts, and as every succeeding failure produced increased distrust, and money was not to be had, these goods were sold at a tithe of their value, and the ruin of hundreds followed.

6. As I have mentioned "good soils" as being requisite for profitable cultivation, I may observe in explanation that I do not think that at the price at which it will be imperative to confine sugar in the British market to insure the continuance of the protective duties, it will be possible to carry on advantageously in this parish, at the present price of labour, the cultivation of the poorer sugar estates.

In many parishes in which the price of labour is not much beyond one-half of what it is in this, it will be possible to cultivate advantageously estates not a whit superior to those which it will be requisite to abandon in St. Mary, and for this reason.

At the termination of the apprenticeship these parishes differed from St. Mary in possessing resident proprietors, who preferred making an immediate and temporary sacrifice for the attainment of a prospective and permanent advantage, to the attainment of a temporary advantage at the expense of a permanent evil.

They therefore held out for such wages as they could afford permanently to give; and, although at a great sacrifice at the time, they are now reaping the fruits of their firmness.

In making these remarks I by no means intend to cast a reflection on those attorneys who, at the termination of the apprenticeship, gave such wages as enabled them to take off their respective crops. In fact the consequences to those who pursued a different course (in the loss of their appointments) would tend to prove that they would not have been justified in assuming the responsibility of proprietors in looking to the future. But the fact of some of these gentlemen having refused, as I am told, the charge of estates which could not be upheld at the rate of wages they had established, is a proof of the correctness of my assertion as respects the poorer or more hilly estates, whilst it shows that an injury has been inflicted on

But independently of obstacles which might have been obviated, and which are even now susceptible of amelioration, I may observe that the free system has as yet not had a fair trial.

To say nothing of the time requisite for allaying fermentation after so great a revolution, for developing each natural link of society after the dissolution of all artificial bonds, and for uniting them in one great chain of mutual dependence, the experiment of free labour has had to contend against the most unfavourable seasons; add to which the destruction of canes by trespass, when there was a total cessation of labour, compelled the planter, in many instances, to cut his canes every four or five months, not for the purpose of making sugar, but of procuring plants with which to re-establish his cultivation.

7. As the state of the roads must have considerable effect on the profits of sugar cultivation it may not be irrelevant to allude to the subject.

It was the practice, during the existence of slavery, to lay a road-tax on each estate. This tax was generally paid by the labour of the estate's slaves on the road.

Since, however, the termination of the apprenticeship and the diminution of the supply of labour, the managers of estates, who are generally the way-wardens, have paid the road-tax in money, rather than withdraw the people from field labour. This has led to the entire neglect of the roads in St. Mary's, and I believe in many other parishes. But even this entire neglect is scarcely worse than the more than primitive ignorance of the common principles of road-making, which is in almost every instance displayed when a road is made or repaired.

It is no uncommon thing to see a ditch two feet above the level of a road from which it is meant to convey the water; for a road to run over the top of a hill instead of round its base; nor for a stream of water to flow half a mile, or more, along the middle of a road, from which the labour of a man for a few hours would effectually divert it.

The several annual grants of the Assembly, and the present amount of tax levied for roads and bridges, although more than sufficient to keep good roads in order, are insufficient for forming new, or for repairing bad roads. The consequence is (added to what I have before stated) that in some districts, particularly in this, there are really no roads for five or six months in the year. The tracks which are called public roads are, at these periods (the rainy seasons) perfectly impassable, and are the only parts of the country which are avoided in travelling; fences being demolished, and private roads and fields, as a matter of necessity, indiscriminately traversed. I think I speak within bounds in computing the road and bridge grants and road taxes at seventy thousand pounds sterling per annum. Now this sum, mortgaged for ten years, would raise a sum fully sufficient to form at once good roads all over the island, to keep them in perfect order, and, without one shilling of additional taxation, to pay off, within the above period, the original amount raised, with interest.

The extent of the undertaking may on first view be startling; but when it is considered how indispensable good roads are to the prosperity of any country, particularly of one inadequately supplied with labour—that facility of communication will at least double the value of interior lands—and that the present annual sum, if not a greater, must be levied for the support of our present imperfect system,—surprise will be excited that so desirable a project has not been before entertained.

It may be objected, that if, in working out the road-grants, the deprivation of labour has been felt by the planter, so extensive an undertaking would put an entire stop to agriculture. I do not think so; for either the Government or an English company would take up the project, and in such case there would be no difficulty in procuring persons to come to this country for a limited time as road-makers.

The ships usually arriving here in ballast, might load with stone, ready broke for Macadamising, whilst the labourers would be healthily employed in spreading the road-materials in the morning and evening, and in preparing more in sheds during the heat of the day. Further, it is not improbable that at the completion of the work, the greater portion of the road-makers would become a valuable body of settlers, on the savings of their industry.

8. As regards European immigration generally, it cannot have escaped any one of ordinary observation, that the obstacles to its success are not so much the climate, or the inability of the immigrant to labour in suitable locations, and at certain occupations, as the absence of proper preparations for his reception and settlement on estates—the period which elapses before his removal from a crowded depot—the necessities and disappointments which these entail in a climate in which the mind has such an influence on the body—and the opposition which has been given in the mother country to emigration.

This opposition will have considerable effect on the measure; not so much in preventing persons from emigrating, as in altering the description of those who do: for it cannot be supposed that, with such anathemas as have been pronounced against the measure, any one will be found to emigrate, except from sheer necessity.

Now these persons, in nine cases out of ten, will not answer; for the temptations to excess are here so great, that it requires all the resolution of fixed character to prosper—I may say, to live—within their influence. Nor will the measure, in my opinion, succeed, until the labour of the European immigrant is brought into the market under the same advantages as the labour of the negro.

And here the want of the compensation-money is again felt, in the inability of the proprietor to effect this. The negro has his poultry, his pigs, in many instances his cow, and in most his horse, ass, or mule; his family are around him and settled, and his provision grounds enable him, in good seasons, to support them, and to pay his rent without trenching on his money wages, except for luxuries.

The African emigrant walks at once into the house of a countryman, and for the performance of some slight domestic offices, is admitted as one of the family, till he is properly

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settled. This is not the case with the European immigrant, he arrives here, a stranger in a strange land, and as he does not possess any of the above advantages, he has his labour brought into unfair competition with those who do, whilst he feels those necessities which compel continuous labour in having no other resource for his daily subsistence. Now were he under these circumstances to receive double the wages of the negro, unused as he is to the climate, and to the indigenous food of the country, he would neither enjoy the same comforts nor the same independence.

Mr. Foster, I believe, introduced a Bill into the Assembly, authorizing loans on proper security, for the settlement of immigrants, but this extremely wise measure, which would have saved the island all the depôt expences, and have given the experiment a fair trial, was lost in the House from some inscrutable cause.

The success of townships, will, I think, depend much on the selection of dry and cheerful sites; the spots hitherto chosen having been too secluded, and too far in the interior, subject to fogs and rain, and engendering low spirits and regrets under the slightest disappointment.

But independently of these disadvantages, townships can be only of prospective benefit (in producing a future population, (unless they are placed in districts where there is a scarcity of labour, a dry and cool climate being a paramount consideration. And then the immigrant should be at once transferred to them from the ship.

If the townships are in isolated spots, the immigrant must confine his labour to his own land, without deriving any advantage from the money wages he might earn in working a portion of the week for others. The immediate object of immigration is also defeated, for the immigrant might as well be in England, as where his labour is unattainable by others.

I trust it will not be inferred from what I have said, that I am averse to immigration. I am on the contrary so convinced of its importance to the future prosperity of the island, that I have taken the liberty of alluding to the subject, in the hope that in a collision of opinions, however humble, his Excellency may be enabled to arrive at the system most likely to ensure success.

I cannot, however, help adding that were it consistent with the policy of Her Majesty's Government to sanction immigration from all parts of the world, unfettered certainly by prior indenture, I feel assured that from India and Africa would Jamaica be indebted for her most profitable supply of labour.

9. As respects the state of crime, I regret to say that it is not so satisfactory as those had expected who had hoped that it was chiefly identified with physical suffering and distress. Although there are ample opportunities of earning not only the necessities but the luxuries of life, instances of housebreaking, horse-stealing, and the maiming of stock, appear to be more frequent than ever.

Two persons have also been convicted of arson, and although the act was accompanied by robbery and intent to murder, it is satisfactory to think that it is an isolated instance of depravity of the human heart, and not the result of any political combination.

The prevalence of horse stealing and housebreaking, may be ascribed to the impossibility of preventing the escape of convicts from the present houses of correction, but the maiming of horses and cattle may, I think, be traced to another cause.

The absence of prosecutions for this offence does not mark the extent to which it exists. For the fact of the animal being found dead in or near a certain provision ground is the only evidence in the case, and this is circumstantially so slight, that the magistrate can do nothing. The offence is not confined to the property of the more extensive proprietors, but extends to that of all classes, and its prevalence I ascribe in a great measure to the present Pound law.

It is a notorious fact that all parties are dissatisfied with this law, as well the owners of the stray, as the persons on whose land the stray is found; the former because he is made to pay (to the parish) an enormous penalty for an accident, the latter because he not only suffers damage by the trespass without summary compensation, but does not receive as much as will pay the person whom he may have employed to take the stray to the pound. What is the consequence? The stray, perhaps a valuable horse, is either killed or turned on the highway with wounds that render him useless for life.

It has been said that the former law, giving mile money and a certain sum for damage, (not equal to that which now goes to the parish,) was a premium for sending stock to the pound which were not trespassing.

This objection might be obviated by an adequate penalty, but even if it could not, is the chance evil of having one's stock sent improperly to the pound to be compared to the certain evil of having them maimed or killed? As well might it be said that there should be no insurance offices, because they hold out a premium on burning houses. Besides, if stock are taken improperly to the pound, the person who commits the offence, is known, and may be convicted, whereas, in the other case, the difficulty is in discovering the guilty party.

Whilst on the subject of laws, I may mention that there is another which I think requires some explanation and alteration, namely, the Masters and Servants Act, or Contract Law.

By this Act if there are no wages owing to the servant, the justices have no alternative than to send him to the house of correction, and that perhaps for an offence which should be expiated by a pecuniary fine. The imprisonment should, I think, be in default of the payment of fine, or at the discretion of the justices. The words "who shall contract" would also extend the penalties of the Act either beyond what it appears to have been the intention of the Legislature to do, or not so far. If they refer to all contracts by mechanics, the person who engages to build a house by a given time, would come under the operation of the Act; if, on

the other hand, the contracts merely grow out of the obligations of those who shall "contract to serve" for a given time, it would appear to me that no person contracting to perform or complete any specific work, not linked to such a contract of service, would be amenable to its provisions.

10. On reference to your Circular, I observe that I have omitted to say anything of education. Liberal provision has been made by the parish for affording the means of education to the children of the labouring class, and these generally evince much anxiety to learn.

The only objection to the system, appeared to be that it did not embrace any occupation which would lay the foundation of industrious habits.

In some parts of Switzerland, the rich and the poor are at the same school. They all perform agricultural labour, but in proportion to their prospective pursuits and positions in life. The rich read for eight hours, and labour in the fields for two; whilst the poor labour for eight hours, and read for two. In the case of the rich, study is the occupation from which labour is the recreation. In the case of the poor, labour is the occupation from which study is the recreation. The main occupation of each, therefore, has a reference to his future vocation.

I do not think this is sufficiently attended to in Jamaica, particularly when it is evident that the negro fancies that education, be it ever so slight, places him above field labour.

The vestry of Saint Mary intends to purchase small pieces of land, attached to the several school-houses, for the purpose of combining industry with education. The plan is not yet matured, but I trust on some future occasion to have it in my power to report favourably of its operation.

I have, &c.

A. G. FYFE, Stipendiary Justice.

J. M. Higginson, Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 27, in No 18.

Sir,

Spanish Town, 16th October, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular, No. 1092, requesting to be immediately furnished with the half year's Agricultural Report called for under the circular of the 1st August, 1840, No. 994; and I beg to assure his Excellency that the delay in forwarding this document has arisen from circumstances over which I had no control. Encl. 27, in No. 18.

Under the reservation contained in your Circular, No. 994, I find it very difficult to obtain such information as would enable me with confidence to report on the state of agriculture in this precinct. The duties of my office are chiefly confined to this town and an attendance at the peace office; the information, therefore, obtained by the ordinary intercourse with the community is so limited and uncertain, that I have been compelled to seek it from gentlemen in the charge of properties, having previously told them for what purpose I required it.

The crops in this parish and Saint Dorothy have been almost a failure, in consequence of the long continued drought. The grazing-penns, or farms, have also suffered severely from the same cause, and the proprietors or possessors of them were compelled to sell off their cattle and small stock at very low prices, or to send them into the interior, wherever they could procure feeding. In the mountain districts, the crops of coffee, corn, and provisions have equally failed. The crops in the parish of Saint John have been very small, with the exception of the estates situated in Linda's Vale, which, although they have done better than the estates in other parts of the parish, are considerably under an average crop. This year may, therefore, be fairly considered one of failure and great hardship to the planting interest.

The rural population of the three parishes are progressing very fast in establishing themselves as small freeholders. On each side of the roads leading to Point-hill, in Saint John's, and Old Harbour, in Saint Dorothy, the peasantry are erecting cottages; and in this parish, small settlers are increasing.

With respect to the supply of steady labour, the opinions that I have received are various: in Saint John's, one gentleman, residing in Linda's Vale, states that it is by no means cheap nor plentiful, not even sufficient to carry on the cultivation to the extent requisite to make fair crops; whilst, on the other hand, a gentleman, residing in the Vale of Guanabo, in the same parish, declares that it is very plentiful. The average price for day-labour is one shilling and sixpence sterling per day. Jobbing, or task-work, is most generally resorted to; and this becomes less expensive, and is more satisfactory to the employer and employed.

The plough is now used, wherever it is practicable, for putting in canes, the expense of which is estimated to be about sixteen shillings sterling per acre; and the canes planted by the plough are admitted to require less cleaning than those planted with the hoe. I would beg here to observe that to open cane-holes, during slavery, by the jobber cost six pounds sterling per acre, independent of the labour required to plant the canes afterwards, when the season permitted.

The effect of small independent freeholders on the supply of steady labour cannot just now be properly estimated; at present they are employed settling their own properties, and the spots where they are able to locate themselves are, generally speaking, at some considerable distance from sugar properties.

The village of Sligo Villé, situated in the Saint Catherine Hills, is the only one that I have seen which can properly be termed a township or village. The Rev. Mr. Philipps, who settled this village, has erected a chapel for his ministry, and established a school; and in the immediate vicinity, a church of the established religion is in progress of erection, and a school, under the care of the island curate, has been established since 1839. The retailers settled in

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this parish, Saint Dorothy, and Saint John's, are supplied with goods from the retail stores in this town, and the retailers here receive them from Kingston; and I very much fear (from the number of failures, and the list of persons who have taken the benefit of the Insolvent Debtors' Act, in this county) that the effect is severely felt by the Kingston merchant, for the goods are mostly supplied by them on credit, and the retailers here trust them out to the smaller shops and hucksters.

I do not think crime has increased. Those that are brought before the courts are the same old incorrigible offenders who have been discharged from their former punishment, or escaped from the prisons, which are still very insecure.

I have, &c.

W. RAMSAY,

Custos of the Parish of Saint Catherine, and Stipendiary Justice.

Captain J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 56.)

No. 19.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to the Right Hon. Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 1st March, 1842.

No. 19.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 3rd December, No. 18, enclosing the half yearly reports of the stipendiary magistrates for the island under your government.

Although these reports extend over a period of half a year, yet many of them are made to terminate in different months, so that the whole series do not cover the same period of time. I should be glad, unless there are any objections of which I am not aware, that this should be remedied in future reports. I would also suggest whether they might not be accompanied by a return of the imports and exports for the corresponding period.

I perceive that, notwithstanding, the system of "job work" was becoming more general, by which a greater amount of labour was obtained, yet the owners of estates had much difficulty in procuring that amount of continuous labour which was essential to a successful working of their estates.

In connexion with this subject, I should be glad to be informed whether any attempt has been made to introduce the system of "metairie," by which the labourer becomes a small farmer, paying part of the produce instead of rent,—a system which has been found to succeed elsewhere; or whether any plan has been tried for the cultivation of estates by tenants, separating the businesses of owner, grower, and manufacturer.

I should consider it of great importance if any negroes purchasing freeholds could be induced to grow canes, under an agreement to supply a neighbouring planter on such terms as might be agreed on.

The negro, as tenant, would then have an interest in common with his landlord, and might be expected to devote his time and exert his energies in procuring as large an amount of produce as possible.

There are some points alluded to in these reports to which I will now briefly advert.

pp. 27-32.

Mr. Dillon and Mr. Brown, in their reports, remark upon the want of attendance on the part of the local justices at petty sessions. I beg to call your attention to this point, and to request that you will take such steps as may be in your power, by private communication to the parties or otherwise, to obviate so serious an evil.

pp. 38-45.

At this time, when the inhabitants of Jamaica are anxious for the removal of the stipendiary magistrates, it is especially incumbent on them to prove that justice can be administered regularly as well as fairly by unpaid local magistrates.

Mr. Grant and Mr. Fyfe complain of the state of the roads, and Mr. Grant says that the road law is deficient in working out the road taxes. I trust that the recommendation on this subject, contained in your speech at the opening of the session, will meet with attention from the Legislature.

Mr. Fyfe, in alluding to the Pound Law, states that it is notorious that all parties are dissatisfied,—the owner of the stray, and the person on whose ground the stray is found: the former because he is made to pay to the parish an enormous penalty:

This is a question for the consideration of the Legislature, and you will best judge how far it is expedient to take any steps for bringing it to the notice of the legislative bodies.

In the Highgate district, an increase of crime which is reported, is attributed to the insecure state of the places of confinement. You will, I know, obtain a remedy for such an evil, if possible.

Mr. Brown considers it to be a question worthy of consideration, whether the Maroon establishment might not be broken up. I should be glad if you would furnish me with an account of this establishment, as well as of the present state of the Maroons themselves.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

The Right Hon. Sir C. T. Metcalfe, Bart., G.C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 47.)

No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B.
to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

King's House, 12th January, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to submit a message and memorial this day received from the House of Assembly of this island.

No. 20.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. T. METCALFE.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 20.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

WE are ordered by the house to wait on Your Excellency, and to request that you will be pleased to transmit, for presentation to Her Majesty, in the most acceptable manner, the humble memorial of the Assembly, passed the House this day.
JAMAICA Ss.

Enclosure in No. 20.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

THE HUMBLE MEMORIAL OF THE ASSEMBLY OF JAMAICA.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

WE your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects the Assembly of Jamaica, approach your Majesty to express our continued devotion to your Majesty's person and family.

We feel assured that your Majesty takes a deep interest in all that concerns your Majesty's ancient and important colony of Jamaica, and we are therefore emboldened to deprecate before your Majesty the continued efforts annually made to procure the admission of foreign slave grown sugars into the markets of the United Kingdom, for home consumption, at such rates of duty, as must prove ruinous to sugar cultivation in this, as well as in all other of your Majesty's West India colonies.

It has always been the policy of the Government of Great Britain, to give protection to the products of her own colonies, and to regard them as markets for British manufactures, especially deserving of her fostering care.

If that policy be now abandoned this colony will be laid prostrate, a large amount of British capital embarked in it will be sacrificed, an important mart for British manufactures surrendered, a most valuable nursery for British seamen extinguished, an inevitable impetus avowedly given to the foreign slave trade, and all the blood and treasure expended for the suppression of that most odious and revolting traffic, rendered vain and nugatory. The fetters of the bondsman in foreign countries, will also be thus more firmly rivetted by that very nation from which he had been taught to look for succour and deliverance. We therefore humbly implore your Majesty to avert these calamities, ruinous to us, and appalling to a vast multitude of the human race who are still in bondage, and in the present instance to continue to your Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects in these colonies, that parental solicitude and protection, which is most respectfully claimed as due to the proprietors for the sacrifices involved in carrying out the glorious work of slave emancipation, and as conducive to the true interests of those denizens lately exalted into a new and higher state of social and political existence.

We embrace this opportunity, humbly to crave the attention of your Majesty to a grievance affecting another class of cultivators—your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the coffee planters of Jamaica. It has of late years been found lucrative to evade the spirit of the law, by conveying foreign slave grown coffee to the Cape of Good Hope, and thence, as if it were of the growth and produce of your Majesty's dependencies, which are unstained by the existence of slavery, to introduce such coffee into the United Kingdom for home consumption at

JAMAICA.

a rate of duty so low, as to afford no protection to the free labour coffee of your Majesty's West India colonies.

In a very limited district only of this island, can coffee be produced of a quality so peculiarly fine, as to bid defiance to the competition of the slave grown produce of slave-holding and slave trading countries; the consequent almost universal depression in prices, threatens ruin to the great body of the coffee planters of this colony, and great injury to the lately enfranchised peasantry who cultivate this article.

We therefore implore your Majesty to be pleased graciously to direct the attention of your Majesty's Government, in which we have now unbounded confidence, to this our humble memorial.

Passed the Assembly this 12th day of January, 1842.

EDWARD PANTON, Speaker.

BARBADOS.

H

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P A P E R S
RELATIVE TO
B A R B A D O S.

(No. 16.)

No. 1.

COPY of a **DESPATCH** from Governor Sir E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Bart.
to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbados, February 4, 1841.

I HAVE the honour of herewith transmitting to your Lordship, Addresses that have passed between the Honourable the Council and Assembly of this Island and myself, on the opening of the present Legislative Session.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Governor

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell
&c. &c. &c.

BARBADOS.

No. 1.

No. 16.

Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

12th, 26th, and 26th
of Jan. 1841.

(EXTRACT.)

Enclosure in No. 1.

MR. PRESIDENT, MY LORD BISHOP, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL.

MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSEMBLY.

IN general, the best understanding prevails between the proprietary body and the peasantry; and notwithstanding the various deceitful allurements practised on the inexperience and credulity of the latter (such as the assurance of their speedily reverting to a state of slavery, in the approaching abandonment of Barbados to a Foreign power), the artificial migratory propensity produced among them during the past year has materially declined; but not until the departure of two thousand one hundred and fifty-seven labourers unanswerably demonstrated that the practical effect of the local enactments did not in reality unduly impede the voluntary exercise of their locomotive privileges.

Upon this point it may be remarked, that were British Guiana, and the twelve windward and leeward establishments, each to detach one individual only to procure emigrants from every rival Island, the anomalous spectacle would be displayed, of the dispersion, in these contiguous settlements belonging to our august Monarch, of upwards of one hundred and fifty hired agents, the result of whose several missions must altogether depend upon their relative skill in unsettling and agitating the minds of their lately emancipated fellow subjects, and rendering them unhappy and dissatisfied in their free condition.

In the course of correspondence with the Colonial Office, it therefore became my duty to represent, that "in self defence, the Proprietors in the old West India Colonies will be at length driven, if the system of private emigration agency is not decisively checked and controlled by the strong arm of her Majesty's Government in support of their respective legislatures, to make reprisals, and in their turn to employ emissaries in the creation of seditious discontent amongst the rural population of adjoining Governments"; and also that it surely "cannot be desirable, under such circumstances, to expose the West India Islands to the risk of an unavailing controversy, in which Colony will be irritated against Colony, and man against man, of an immense expense of treasure, and possibly of human life; and from the prosecution of which neither planters nor labourers in the new or in the old Colonies, are likely in the long run to gain any lasting benefit."

By an accession of cultivators from America, and recently through the enlightened policy of Her Majesty's Government, from Africa, it is much to be wished that a prolongation of this unnatural inter-colonial contest may be arrested. Such a hope is encouraged by the dissipation of the illusion erroneously attributing a redundant population to Barbados, as well as by the removal of a difficulty formerly noticed by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, viz., "that it would be impossible for Her Majesty's Government to resist in British Guiana, and other Colonies, legislation which may appear unduly provocative of emigration, if they were not at the same time enabled to correct elsewhere that which is unduly obstructive." In reference to the last amended bill, His Lordship is now pleased to declare, that this Act does "all that is absolutely necessary for the amendment of the previous legislation upon these subjects," and you will fully appreciate the just and acceptable conclusion at which the Colonial Minister has arrived upon this important question.

For the sake of humanity, I fervently trust that the experiment of free labour is not destined to encounter renewed interruption in this Island, and that by steadily preserving in the gradual amelioration of her interior relations, and in the peaceful pursuits of agriculture and commerce, that creditable station may be ever prosperously maintained through the favour of Providence, which the ancient and loyal Colony of Barbados has honourably won, and long and deservedly occupied, amidst the transatlantic dependencies of the British Crown.

(Signed)

E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Governor.

Government House, Barbados, 12th January, 1841.

Encl. in No. 1.

H 2

BARBADOS.

EXTRACTS from the Address of the Members of Her Majesty's Council of Barbados to Sir E. J. Murray Macgregor.

WE are happy that experience enables us to accord our willing testimony to your Excellency's observation, that the best understanding prevails between the proprietary body and the peasantry, notwithstanding the persevering efforts of hired and unprincipled agents from the sister Colonies to unsettle the minds of the latter, and to seduce them to emigrate. By the untiring zeal of your Excellency, we are now fortified with such local enactments as may deter, and will punish, any specious adventurer, from practising on the too easy credulity of this class; and although our population has diminished by the departure of two thousand one hundred and fifty-seven labourers, yet we are induced to believe that many of them are daily retracing their steps, furnishing a proof that they have been deluded and acting as a beacon to others from being further misled.

Your Excellency's extracts from your correspondence with the Colonial Office, shew the pains you have taken to bring the subject of emigration before the Government in all its particular details; and we feel convinced that by your representations, the authorities at home have been mainly influenced in advising Her Majesty to assent to the Amended Emigration Act, and we cannot but highly appreciate "the acceptable conclusion at which the Colonial Secretary has arrived upon this important question."

We heartily respond to your Excellency's wishes, that the experiment of free labour may proceed without further interruption; and that "our island, in the peaceful pursuit of agriculture and commerce, may continue to maintain, through the favour of Providence, that creditable station which she has honourably won, and deservedly occupied, amidst the transatlantic dependencies of the British Crown."

(Signed)

JOHN BRATHWAITE,
President of the Council.

Council Chamber, January 26th, 1841.

EXTRACT from an Address of the House of Assembly of Barbadoes.

THE House with lively satisfaction bears testimony to the correctness of your Excellency's statement, "that the best understanding exists between the proprietary body and the peasantry," notwithstanding the strenuous and unscrupulous efforts which have been made by interested persons to unsettle the minds of the latter, and to inspire them with a dislike to their employers, and a distaste for their native land. The House indulges the hope that the eyes of our labourers have been opened to the delusions which have been practised upon them, and to which many have fallen victims; and that the fatal termination which death has put to the wanderings of some of those who were induced to emigrate, the state of misery and disease in which others (who through the kindness of a few captains of vessels have found their way back), have arrived, and the difficulty of effecting a return, will have operated as a warning to the rest. Often as this subject has been noticed, and the evils resulting from the operations of emigration emissaries exposed in this Colony, yet, in gratefully acknowledging the fairness and candour which have distinguished the conduct and communications of the Noble Secretary for the Colonies, with reference to this important question, and which have induced his Lordship to advise Her Majesty graciously to assent to the Amended Act passed by the legislature of this island for the protection of the peasantry, the House cannot refrain from making one or two observations, calculated to shew that additional reasons exist for checking the unnatural system of emigration agency which has been carried on in this Colony. And, first, they would advert, in reference to the general peace and welfare of the community, to the facilities which this system afforded for the gratification of private pique and revenge, or political resentment. It is well known that obnoxious individuals were marked out by these agents, and made objects of particular attack, and that in the gratification of their revengeful feelings they exerted themselves to excite discontent among the labourers, and to depopulate the estates of such proprietors as gave them offence, without any regard to the disposition and character of such proprietors as employers, or to the happiness, comfort, and condition of the labourers themselves; and thus the interests of both, of the latter no less than the former, were remorselessly sacrificed to the private objects of these unprincipled men, and opportunity was at the same time afforded to the internal enemies of the Colony, to impede and embarrass the satisfactory working of the free system, and impair the influence and resources of the proprietary body by aiding these agents in their efforts, and unsettling the minds of the peasantry by every species of calumny and misrepresentation. In alluding to the obstacles which repentant emigrants have to encounter in returning to their native land, the House referred to the absence of the necessary pecuniary means, and to those debts to the emigration agents with which emigrating labourers were hampered, and which it was part of the policy of the former to suffer them to incur previous to their departure, and which they were left without the means of discharging in the new scene to which they had been allured. It is true that some of these poor people have been fortunate enough to effect a return to their country; but your Excellency is probably aware that the great majority of these are indebted to the charity and kindness of commanders of vessels, whose hearts have been touched by their importunities, and whose compassionate feelings have been aroused by witnessing their distress. From these gentlemen, however, frequent repetitions of such gratuitous services could not be expected, and one of them has actually

And here they cannot but congratulate your Excellency, on the additional proof which your Excellency has been enabled to give of that kind feeling for, and lively interest in, the African race, already conspicuously displayed in the share which your Excellency took in accelerating their freedom, both in the Leeward and Windward Islands, by your efforts to protect their inexperience on the present occasion, from the mischievous effects of the artificial emigration excitement, by which they have been lately disturbed in the infancy of their recently acquired freedom. The House cannot conclude this subject, without adverting to a letter which appeared recently in the public prints of Demerara, purporting to be dated—Downing Street, and to bear the signature of Mr. Vernon Smith, in which the person to whom it is addressed is informed, that the captured Africans at the Bahamas are freemen, and cannot be lawfully prevented from emigrating; but that the Governor of the Bahamas had been instructed, on grounds connected with the maritime strength of Great Britain, not to encourage the depopulation of islands under his government. In this paragraph, the House rejoice to perceive that the noble Secretary for the Colonies recognizes the difference between improperly restraining the free-man's undoubted right to carry his labour to the market of his choice, and encouraging and exciting in a people a migratory spirit. It is this difference which has all along formed the basis of the reasoning, the remonstrances, and the Acts of the Legislature of this Colony; and it is doubtless the recognition of it, and a just preception of the equal claim which the Colonies have to the maternal care and fostering protection of the parent State, which have prompted the noble Lord in the candid and honourable course which he has pursued; and the House repose the fullest confidence in those powers of discrimination which his Lordship has displayed and exercised in detecting the real nature of the case, and in his Lordship's impartial disposition to restrain (now that the Barbados Legislature has done "all that is necessary to remove undue restrictions") the tendency of the Government of British Guiana to resort to measures unduly provocative of emigration. In the letter referred to, is also contained the satisfactory information, that the Governor of Sierra Leone had been instructed to allow of such emigration from that Colony. A legitimate source being thus opened to our fellow colonists of the new Colonies, whence supplies of labourers may be obtained by them in a manner alike honourable to themselves and beneficial to the persons emigrating, the House earnestly hope that discreditable and unnatural attempts to depopulate this Colony will be discontinued on the part of those by whom they have been made, and that those who have hitherto honourably forborne, will find an additional reason for continuing to do so, in the announcement referred to, and that (in the words of your Excellency) that creditable station may be ever prosperously maintained, through the favour of Providence, which the ancient and loyal Colony of Barbados has honourably won, and long and deservedly occupied, amidst the transatlantic dependencies of the British Crown.

By Order of the House,
(Signed) GEORGE N. TAYLOR, Speaker.

House of Assembly, January 26th, 1841.

(True Copies)

E. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Governor.

(No. 122.)

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord JOHN RUSSELL, to Governor Sir E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Bart.

Sir, Downing-street, March 23, 1841.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 16, of the 4th of February, transmitting Addresses that have passed between yourself and the Legislative Bodies of Barbados, on the opening of the present Session.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

Maj.-Gen. Sir E. J. M. Macgregor, Bart., K.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 22.)

No. 3.

WINDWARD ISLANDS.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Bart., to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord, Government House, Barbados, February 26, 1841.

I HAVE the honour of submitting to your Lordship various Documents, therewith connected, and an Address to your Lordship from several influential descendants of Africa, in Barbados, setting forth that, under the circumstances therein stated, it is "contemplated to raise, by voluntary contributions, a fund towards defraying the expenses for the maintenance, during their education in the learned professions, at the public seminaries of England, of some promising youths of their class:" that "they fear, from the deficiency of their hereditary possessions, and from the general limited resources of the coloured population in this

No. 3.
No. 22.
No. 1 to 6.

BARBADOS.

Island, as a body, occasioned by the very unfavourable position from which they have but just emerged, that it will be next to impossible, of themselves, at this period, without the benevolent interposition of the Parent State, to carry out this desirable object;" and soliciting that your Lordship will be graciously pleased "to submit their application to the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government, and afford them the benefit of your powerful influence in obtaining a portion of the national funds appropriated to the formation of schools, for effecting this especial and important object."

Being called upon by the subscribers to the Address to support its prayer, I regret that their cause is not confided to a more persuasive and successful advocate; but, however deficient in that weight and influence which they are pleased to ascribe to me, the sincerity, I respectfully hope, will not be questioned, with which I venture to express to your Lordship my humble opinion, derived from long local experience, that the boon invoked by them upon the present occasion, is the most beneficial that can be conferred, in the actual condition of Colonial Society, upon the West Indian coloured subjects of Her Majesty.

The "detailed arrangements with respect to the proposed measure," being postponed "until the pleasure of Her Majesty's Government shall have been ascertained," I will not detain your Lordship further than to recommend, in the event of its being favourably entertained, that, while the eligibility of the parties chosen for Home education, and their impartial selection might be looked to by the Executive authority abroad, their disposal, when resident in the mother country, should be rendered liable to the supervision and control of the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1, in No. 3.

Encl. 1, in No. 3.

COMMUNICATION made by the Governor, to Messrs. the Honourable Thomas Joshua Cummins, Kennedy, Wilkins, Ashby, Thomas, Harris, Thorne, Bourne, and Ellis, convened at Hastings House, on Monday, the 30th of November, 1840.

The Governor's object in soliciting the presence of this Meeting will become apparent, in reference to the annexed extracts of despatches, addressed to Lord Glenelg, and Lord John Russell, respectively.

If, after due consideration, the influential members of the coloured body now assembled, with whom alone the Governor has deemed it advisable to communicate on this occasion, shall be of opinion that the contemplated measure may be safely attempted in this community, with a reasonable prospect of success, the Governor will be glad to learn in what manner his services may be rendered most conveniently available in furtherance of their wishes.

Enclosure 2, in No. 3.

Encl. 2, in No. 3.

EXTRACT of a Despatch from Sir Evan Murray Macgregor, Baronet, Governor of the Leeward Islands, to the Right Honourable Lord Glenelg, dated Roseau, Dominica, 13th January, 1836.

"Since the just and equitable relief of the coloured class from their former disabilities, I have exhorted the most intelligent, as they cannot afford to instruct their children individually, to act in concert, in order to effect that object, by subscribing, for the education in England, of some of these youths, who indicate talent.—But my representations have proved unavailing, and I am thereby induced to submit to your Lordship, the expediency of devoting a portion of the National Funds destined towards the forming of schools, to the purpose of defraying the expense of supporting a certain number of young persons of colour, while resident in Britain, in attendance on our public seminaries; as well as the cost of their voyages to and from the West Indian Colonies."

Enclosure 3, in No. 3.

Encl. 3, in No. 3.

EXTRACT of a Despatch from Sir Evan Murray Macgregor, Baronet, Governor of the Windward Islands, to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell, dated Government House, Barbados, 9th April, 1840.

"It may be right also briefly to explain, that the plan is a very simple one, formerly suggested by me in the Leeward Islands, and merely requiring, for its execution, a subscription

BARBADOS.

talented and powerful individuals of the rising generation, whose protection would encourage and support them in their future career abroad, and thus more closely bind together those ties of national attachment that cannot be too firmly cemented between Her Majesty's British and Colonial subjects."

Enclosure 4, in No. 3.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Assembled here at your Excellency's desire, we have been made acquainted with a project contemplated by your Excellency for extending the advantages of a professional education, at the public seminaries of England to youths of the black and coloured community who may indicate talent.

Encl. 4, in No. 3.

In proposing an object of such vital importance to the coloured body of this Island, your Excellency has given the most indubitable proof of your Excellency's anxiety to witness the general advancement of our race; and we beg most gratefully to tender to your Excellency our sincere thanks for the kind interest so generously manifested, on this occasion, for their welfare.

As, however, the object is novel, and obviously requires consideration, we fear it will not be in our power to determine, at this moment, upon any specific mode of carrying out the contemplated measure. We would therefore request of your Excellency to be pleased to allow us some short time for discussing the subject, and making your Excellency acquainted, at a future day, with the result of our deliberations.

Again assuring your Excellency of our deeply-felt gratitude, and with an offer of our sincere wishes for your Excellency's health,

We have, &c.

(Signed)

THOMAS J. CUMMINS,
JOSEPH KENNEDY,
VALENTINE WILKINS,
ROBERT H. ASHBY,
WM. PHAROUR THOMAS,

THOMAS HARRIS,
JOSEPH THORNE,
LONDON BOURNE,
THOMAS ELLIS.

November 30th, 1840.

Enclosure 5, in No. 3.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Bridge Town, 25th February, 1841.

Referring to the proceedings of a meeting held at Hastings House, on the 30th of November last, we beg leave most respectfully to wait upon your Excellency with the accompanying document, addressed to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, on the subject of educating, partly at the national expense, a certain number of youths of colour, in the learned professions, at some of the public seminaries of England, benevolently suggested by your Excellency, upon that occasion;—and to request that your Excellency will be graciously pleased to extend to us your usual kindness and promptitude in forwarding the Address, and in giving to it all that weight and influence which may finally ensure the success we so ardently desire.

Encl. 5, in No. 3.

With sentiments of profound respect, we beg leave to subscribe ourselves,

May it please, &c.

(Signed)

THOMAS J. CUMMINS,	ROBERT H. ASHBY,	B. WM. MASSIAH,
V. WILKINS,	JOSEPH THORNE,	THOMAS C. ASHBY,
WILLIAM P. THOMAS,	LONDON BOURNE,	WILLIAM S. WILKEY,
THOMAS ELLIS,	JOSEPH HAMILTON,	HENRY WILKINS,
THOMAS HARRIS,	JOHN HORSHAM,	WILLIAM C. HAYNES,
JOSEPH KENNEDY,	SAMUEL B. ARTHUR,	HENRY BRATHWAITE.

To His Excellency Sir EVAN J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Baronet,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copies.)

Enclosure 6, in No. 3.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,

Barbados, February 25th, 1841.

In accordance with the proceedings of a meeting held at Hastings House, the 30th of November last, on the invitation of His Excellency the Governor, We, the undersigned members of that body hitherto designated "People of Colour," or descendants of Africa, beg leave most respectfully to engage your Lordship's attention on a subject the most important, with reference to the future advancement of that class of persons who have been but recently relieved from that state of political debasement, consequent upon the existence of slavery in these Her Majesty's plantations in the western hemisphere.

Encl. 6, in No. 3.

Owing to the justice and liberality of the British Government, every barrier to preferment has been removed, and the gates to the attainment of fame, honour, and emolument thrown open to all classes of Her Majesty's subjects possessed of enterprise, intellect, and education, necessary to qualify them for the succession to those places of trust and distinction heretofore exclusively enjoyed by their more favoured white brethren.

To afford an equal opportunity to the former in competing for places with the latter, a plan has been suggested by His Excellency the Governor, and it is in consequence contemplated to raise by voluntary contributions, a fund towards defraying the expenses "for the maintenance during their education in the learned professions, at the public seminaries of England, of some promising youths of our class, who would thereby obtain opportunities of acquiring a knowledge of the world, rarely to be obtained in these small settlements, and of contracting friend-

BARBADOS.

ships in early life with talented and powerful individuals of the rising generation, whose protection would encourage and support them in their future career abroad, and thus more closely bind together those ties of national attachment that cannot be too firmly cemented between Her Majesty's British and Colonial subjects."

But we fear, from the deficiency of our hereditary possessions, and from the general limited resources of the coloured population in this island as a body, occasioned by the very unfavourable position from which they have but just emerged, that it will be next to impossible, of themselves, at this period, without the benevolent interposition of the parent State, to carry out this desirable object.

From your Lordship's known liberality and friendly disposition towards the sons of Africa, we feel a confident assurance that your Lordship will lend an attentive ear to our solicitations in behalf of this hitherto neglected class, and that your Lordship will also be graciously pleased to submit our application to the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government, and afford us the benefit of your powerful influence in obtaining a portion of the national funds appropriated to the formation of schools, for effecting this especial and important object.

We beg leave to state, that we have purposely refrained from entering into any detailed arrangements with respect to the proposed measure, until the pleasure of Her Majesty's Government shall have been ascertained, and we fondly venture to hope that their acquiescence will be accorded in that spirit of generous munificence which has ever characterized the British nation.

We have, &c.,

(Signed)

THOS. J. CUMMINS,
V. WILKINS,
WILLIAM J. THOMAS,
THOMAS ELLIS,
THOMAS HARRIS,
JOSEPH KENNEDY,

ROBT. H. ASHBY,
JOSEPH THORNE,
LONDON BOURNE,
JOSEPH HAMILTON,
JOHN HORSHAM,
SAML. B. ARTHUR,

B. WM. MASSIAH,
THOMAS C. ASHEY,
WILLIAM S. WILKEY,
HENRY WILKINS,
WM. C. HAYNES,
HENRY BRATHWAITE.

To the Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 129.)

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Governor Sir E. J. MURRAY
MACGREGOR, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, April 8, 1841.

No. 4.

I HAVE received your Despatch No. 22, of the 26th February, transmitting with other documents on the subject, an Address from a body of Her Majesty's subjects in Barbados, of African descent, praying the assistance of Her Majesty's Government towards defraying the expenses for their maintenance, during their education at the public seminaries of England, of a certain number of youths selected from their body.

It will not be in the power of Her Majesty's Government to apply to this purpose any part of the Parliamentary vote of this year for negro education.

The vote of the next year will be decreased, as the negroes are now in a condition to provide, in some measure for the education of their children.

But I shall be ready, next year, to consider any proposal from Barbados for the object stated in the Address.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. RUSSELL.

Maj.-Gen. Sir E. J. M. Macgregor, Bart., G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 11).

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Governor Sir E. J.
MURRAY MACGREGOR, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, April 22, 1841.

No. 5.

FINDING that there is a great want in this Office of detailed information as to some of the Colonies under your government, I have to request that you will call on the Stipendiary Magistrates to furnish you once every half-year with reports on the state of their several districts, with reference to the questions enumerated in the enclosed paper. These reports you will then transmit to me, with any observations you may have to make upon them.

The most convenient periods for making these reports will be at the commencement and at the close of the annual crop. I should wish, however, to receive the first series without delay.

The series of thirty-two questions relative to the working of the free-system in Barbados, which you addressed to the police magistrates in 1839, elicited much valuable information.

I observe, however, that it is now more than a year since any reports have been received from those gentlemen in answer to that series of questions.

It will be desirable, for the sake of uniformity, that the inclosed list should be substituted, and that these reports should be sent in regularly at the same period with the others.

BARBADOS.

Maj.-Gen. Sir E. J. M. Macgregor, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

Enclosure in No. 5.

No. I. *General Character and Condition of the Peasantry*.—Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners—habits—or tastes—in the rate of mortality—or in the nature and frequency of offences.

Encl. in No. 5.

No. II. *Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors*.—Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates—to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

No. III. *New Institutions*.—As churches—schools—savings' banks—benefit societies, &c.

No. IV. *State and Prospects of Cultivation*.—Noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages—the produce of the last crop, and the promise of the next—the weather, &c.

No. V. *Improvements and Discoveries*.—As for instance, any new machine, by which labour is saved—any improved method of cultivation, and new manufacture, &c.

No. VI. *State of Internal Traffic*.—Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

(No. 1.)

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. President BRATHWAITE, to
Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbados, June 17, 1841.

ADVERTING to your Lordship's Despatch of the 22nd of April last, general No. 11, addressed to the late Governor-in-Chief, Sir Evan Murray Macgregor, and received a short time previously to the fatal termination of his Excellency's last illness, I beg to inform your Lordship that the stipendiary magistrates have been instructed, in conformity with your Lordship's directions, "to prepare reports once every year, on the state of their several districts, with reference to the questions enumerated in the paper" which formed the enclosure of your Lordship's Despatch above quoted.

No. 6.

In the meantime, I do myself the honour of herewith forwarding to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a letter from the judges of the Assistant Court of Appeal, relative to the printed pamphlet (also forwarded) containing reports from the police magistracy upon the working of the free system in this island, from the 1st October, 1839, to the 31st of December, 1840. The earlier transmission of these Documents to your Lordship's department was unfortunately retarded by the serious and alarming indisposition under which the late Governor was suffering at the time of their receipt by his Excellency's private secretary, and I therefore avail myself of this opportunity of submitting them, without further delay, for your Lordship's consideration.

May 24th, 1841.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN BRATHWAITE,

President, Administering the Government.

To the Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 6.

Sir,

Assistant Court of Appeal, May 24th, 1841.

THE long delay which has attended the transmission of our Report upon the Replies of the Police Magistracy to the Quarterly Series of Questions upon the working of the Free System in Barbados, demands an explanation from us, which we have now the honour to submit for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor.

Encl. in No. 6.

The printed pamphlet, herewith forwarded, will be found to contain the respective magisterial answers, embracing a period between the 1st of October, 1839, and the 31st of December, 1840, together with an appendix, exhibiting general reports for the year ending December 1840, from the same functionaries, upon the agricultural prospects of the several parishes; to which are added, communications from the assistant harbour master and inspector general of police, in answer to certain queries proposed to them by His Excellency's directions. As the previous reports from the magistracy had been transmitted in a printed form, it was deemed expedient

Pamphlet.

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to present the succeeding documents in the same uniform shape, and these latter were consequently placed, shortly after the expiration of the year, in the hands of the publisher, under the expectation that they would be completed within a stated period. The publication, however, was arrested in its progress by unforeseen difficulties, over which we could exercise no control, and its completion was therefore unavoidably protracted until the present date.

Soliciting a reference to the two last reports from the Assistant Court, under date the 30th September, 1839, and the 15th November of the same year, as exhibiting an exposition of our views and sentiments at those periods, upon the results of the free system in this island, we have to observe in relation to the present series of magisterial records for the year 1840, that they do not appear to us to offer any striking distinction from the contents of the preceding annual reports; except with regard to the injurious, but we are happy to add temporary, effects produced by ill advised and precipitate emigration, and the diminution of the average quantity of yearly produce, arising solely from the long prevailing drought, by which the agricultural prospects of the island have been in some parishes altogether blighted, and in others materially injured. At the same time, we have not failed to notice that a few of the causes which previously tended to create misunderstandings between the two agricultural classes are alluded to, as having continued partially to exist during the last year. Among these impediments to the establishment of mutual good-will, may be included the disinclination of many of the labouring body to train their children to the performance of field employment; but this objection on the part of the parents,—as well as other prejudices, the origin of which may probably be traced to the feelings engendered while in a state of servitude—will, we have no doubt, be entirely dissipated by the silent operation of time, and by the general diffusion of moral and religious education among the peasantry.

Having adverted at length, in our letter of the 5th February last, to the machinations resorted to by private emigration agents, as well as to the results which attended the progress of the emigration scheme, we would here observe, it is not a matter of surprise, while the minds of the labourers were thus kept in a continual state of agitation and ferment, that irregularity of field labour should be the consequence. To this cause therefore, we find the police magistrates have attributed the reluctance of the peasantry to perform their accustomed labour during the first eight or nine months of the year (1840). With the cessation, however, of this undue excitement, the return of a more willing disposition to resume their agricultural duties was strongly perceptible. Perhaps too, this impulse received no little encouragement from the information circulated among their body by many of the return emigrants, who having practically experienced the vicissitudes attending the transfer of their labour to an untried land, were competent to impart all needful knowledge upon the subject to such of their brethren as had not yet hazarded the experiment of emigration.

To whatever cause this change of opinion may be referable, it is nevertheless admitted that at the fall of the year, and preparatory to the crop season, a marked difference in the general conduct of the peasantry, particularly as regarded the steady performance of field labour, was observable; and we are gratified to state, that this feeling has since continued to animate the great mass of the labouring classes, to whose cheerful exertions in reaping the present sugar crop, ample testimony from magisterial, as well as other sources of intelligence, is willingly borne. Upon this subject, the police magistrate for the parish of St. John, writes—"the expected failure of this year's crop is attributed in no way to any deficiency in the labour system; the cultivation of lands for the ensuing crop being excellent throughout the parish."

We would also solicit attention to the very insignificant number of petty crimes on the part of the working classes, which will be found specified in our monthly reports of magisterial complaints, and of appeals therefrom. This trifling amount of penal offences, when considered comparatively with the extensive agricultural population of the island, is also calculated to afford a convincing argument of the progressive advancement of the Barbados labourer in the knowledge and practical exercise of those important duties required of him as a free subject and peaceful citizen.

In a previous report of the 30th of September last, we had occasion to express our conviction, that the adoption by the landed proprietors, of renting to the labourers their cottages, and a small portion of land attached thereto, would ensure the most beneficial results, and tend the more firmly to consolidate the interests of landlord and tenant, the disunion of which, recent experience has shewn must ever be attended with injurious consequences to both parties. It is, therefore, with much satisfaction we find a large majority of the police magistrates inculcating the propriety of resorting to the rent system; and we sincerely hope that this sound and prudent counsel may be received and acted upon, without longer delay, by the proprietary body of this colony.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) A. CUPPAGE, J. J. TINLING, JOS. GARRAWAY,
(True Copy) Jno. Brathwaite, Judges of the Assistant Court of Appeal.

President, administering the Government.
The Hon. Felix Bedingfeld, Private Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

FREE SYSTEM IN BARBADOS.

QUESTIONS for QUARTERLY REPLY, from the Police Magistracy of the Island of BARBADOS.
Between 1st October and 31st December, 1839.

3. Is there any want of good feeling between the labourers and their Employers; and if so, to what cause do you attribute it?

4. Are you of opinion that the common interests of the Employers and Labourers will gradually tend, in the altered condition of Colonial society, to the establishment of a good understanding between those classes, without the aid of external intervention?

5. Do the Labourers perform their work willingly, and if not, to what cause do you ascribe it?

6. What are the working hours generally in use, in your parish?

7. Is task work generally resorted to in your parish; if not, does the objection lie with the masters or the labourers?

8. What is the ordinary rate of wages, and how are the labourers paid in the reaping season as well as in other months?

9. Are the labourers generally supplied with lodging and a spot of cultivable land upon the estates on which they may engage to work; if so, upon what terms?

10. Is the occupation of the house, and the privilege of planting the piece of ground attached to it, mutually understood as forming a set-off against the full daily value of the labourer's work; or is the rent of the house and land a distinct charge, having no reference to the estate duty performed by the labourer?

11. What is the general practice pursued in your parish in hiring labourers; are they engaged simply to perform day labour, which engagement is only binding for one day; or do they usually enter into verbal or written agreements for any specified term,—say weekly, monthly, or yearly; and if so, are any records of this nature lodged in your office?

12. Are the labourers disposed generally to prefer written to verbal agreements?

13. Are the labourers, in their general intercourse with each other, upon a happy footing, or litigiously disposed?

14. Has the renewal of the island laws, regulating the relations between masters and servants, and providing for the suppression of vagrancy, operated to the relief of the labouring population?

15. Have you been called upon to investigate complaints, on account of the undue occupation of houses or lands by labourers, from the plantations on which they have been working,—if so, where does the fault generally exist; in the employers, the labourers, or both?

16. Are you of opinion that any sensible diminution in the number of agricultural labourers in your parish has taken place since the 1st August, 1838?

17. Have many labourers returned to work on properties from which they removed on the 1st of August, 1838, or subsequently; and do you consider the labourers in general attached to the estates on which they have been born and brought up?

18. To what kind of employment do those persons who have abandoned agricultural labour usually betake themselves?

19. Has emigration to any considerable extent occurred among the labourers of your parish; if so, specify the number, and state to what cause you are disposed to attribute this novel propensity on their part?

20. From your knowledge of the character and feelings of the Barbados peasantry, do you conclude that their emigration has been spontaneous or otherwise?

21. What are the ages, generally speaking, of the emigrants from your parish; and of which of the three classes of males, females, and children, have the majority of emigrants consisted?

22. Are you of opinion there is a surplus population in this island, and that a large proportion of labourers might be spared without disadvantage, for the benefit of Colonies where labour is comparatively scarce?

23. What is the condition of the children of the labourers, and how are they supported?

24. What facilities does your parish supply for education and religious instruction? Is the attendance at Church and in the Schools equal to the accommodation?

25. Are the children readily employed for hire by the estates on which the parents are located; if not, is this attributable to the disinclination of the employers to hire the services of the children, or to any indisposition on the part of the parents to train them to agricultural pursuits?

26. Do the labourers appear to take any interest in the complexional distinction between the white, coloured, or black classes of inhabitants?

27. Have you perceived any desire on the part of the authorities or gentry of the country to interfere with the rights of freedom, acquired under the abolition of apprenticeship by the labouring population, or virtually to retain them in a prolonged state of slavery?

28. Are the labourers fully aware of the existence of the Assistant Court of Appeal?

29. Whether do you consider the judicial system, obtaining since the creation of that tribunal, or that prevailing during the general employment of the late Special Magistrates, most conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition?

30. Are the labourers fully aware of the institution of Courts of Reconciliation in this island; if so, do they cheerfully attend when summoned as Jurors, and do they evince an interest in the proceedings?

31. Have you had many opportunities of bringing those tribunals into operation for the adjustment of their differences; and are you of opinion that their permanent establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes?

32. Whether do you consider the judicial system obtaining since the creation of the Court of Appeal, or that prevailing during the general employment of the late Special Magistrates, most conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition?

33. What quantity of sugar has been made this season in your parish, by proprietors, for the labourers attached thereto; and what amount of money has the same realized?

34. What quantity of stock are the labourers upon the estates in your parish now possessed of?

35. Is such a quantity of ground provisions, corn, &c. now planted, as will in your opinion preclude the possibility of a recurrence of the scarcity threatened in the earlier part of 1839?

36. What are the prospects of the ensuing crop, and what the general state of cultivation? Has the season been favourable or otherwise?

37. Are you aware that there has been, since the abolition of apprenticeship, a greatly increased demand from the labouring population for the luxuries of life, such as wine, articles of dress, &c. &c.?

38. Are you of opinion that Savings' Banks and Friendly Societies would be beneficial to the labouring classes, and be contributed to by them; if so, by what means do you conceive that such institutions may be best promoted?

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39. On comparing their situation with that of the labouring classes in other portions of the British dominions, do you consider the labourers of Barbados a happy peasantry as at present circumstanced?

40. Have you any suggestions to make or any practical measures to recommend for the benefit of the labouring population in particular, or of this community in general?

ANSWERS.

No 1.—*Parish of St. Philip.*

1. Submission to the laws, and I am happy to say much more regular in their daily labour.

2. Chiefly petty thefts, and assaults and batteries; but sorry am I to add that within the last four months many cases of incendiarism have occurred in this particular parish, and that that mode of satiating their revenge seems now to be adopted, whether it be towards their own class or towards their employer.

3. Questions to 34 inclusive, already answered on a former occasion, and at present require no additional correction.

36. As I condemn the present system of abrupt ejection of labourers, as well as the abrupt secession of labourers from properties on which they are domiciled, I think that the labourers should pay rent for their land and cottages, which would render them more independent in the disposal of their labour, and consequently make them feel more independent as "Free Men."

(Signed)

P. L. APPLEWHITE, Police Magistrate.

No. 2.—*Parish of St. James.*

1. The conduct of the labourers (considering circumstances) has been good, since my appointment as Police Magistrate.

2. The majority of offences consist of assaults and batteries, with a few cases of debt and petty theft.

3. There is at present a very good feeling existing between labourers and their employers.

4. I am of opinion that the common interests of employers and labourers being inseparably connected, do not require the aid of external intervention for promoting a good understanding between the parties.

5. The labourers at the present time, seem to perform their work willingly: the cause of the contrary event occasionally happening, may generally be traced to the want of proper management on the property where it occurs.

6. The working hours are generally from six to nine o'clock a.m., and from ten a.m. to four p.m.

7. Task work is not much resorted to; the objection lies with employers, who generally find the work (from being hurried) badly done.

8. The rate of wages varies at present from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6½d.; and in the reaping season, from 1s. 6½d., to 1s. 10½d. per diem.

9. The labourers are always (or at least in most cases) supplied with a house, and a small piece of cultivable land.

10. I shall presume from the fact of the labourer readily obtaining 1s. 6½d. per day, when working abroad, and his only getting 1s. 3d. when working on the property on which his house and land are situated, that the occupation of the house, and the privilege of planting the land attached to it, is meant (if not understood) as forming a set-off against the payment of the full daily value of the labourer's work; remarking at the same time, that the annual difference of the wages, which I will suppose to be the rent, is a low price for the comforts which the labourer's house and land generally afford him.

11. The labourers in this parish are simply engaged to perform day labour, which engagement I should consider only binding for one day, but the knowledge that if they do not work steadily and continuously, that they would not be allowed to occupy their houses on the property, generally induces them to remain settled on one estate.

12. The labourers are very averse to agreements of any sort.

13. They are most litigiously disposed, resorting to law on most frivolous grounds.

14. I do not think that the disallowance of the late Island laws "for regulating the relations between masters and servants, and for suppression of vagrancy," has afforded the least relief to the labouring population.

15. I have not been called on to investigate complaints of unlawful occupation of houses and lands by, or ejection of labourers from, the plantations on which they have been working.

16. A very sensible diminution in the number of agricultural labourers took place immediately after the emancipation.

17. Great numbers, or nearly all the labourers, have returned to the estates which they left on the 1st of August, 1838, or shortly after; and I consider that in general they are much attached to the places where they have been born and brought up.

18. Answered by the foregoing.

19. Those persons who abandon agricultural labour, usually betake themselves to domestic employments, and some to carpenters', shoemakers', and tailors' trades.

20. There is no desire, as far as it is possible to discern, on the part of the labouring population, to emigrate.

21. I am of opinion, that so far from there being a surplus of labouring population in this island, that no labourers could be spared without decided disadvantage.

22. The condition of the children of the labourers is happy at present, but the idle way in which they are brought up is, I think, likely to entail much misery on them; they are supported by their parents and relations.

23. My parish affords a large school and plenty of accommodation in a church and chapel; the attendance at both is equal to, but does not exceed, the accommodation afforded.

24. The children would be most readily employed on every estate on which their parents are located, but the most decided aversion is evinced by them to train their children to agricultural pursuits.

25. Labourers appear to take little interest in the complexional difference between the white, coloured, or black classes of inhabitants. As masters or employers, I should say they decidedly prefer the former.

26. So far from the authorities or gentry of the island wishing to interfere with the rights of free.

dom of the labouring population, or wishing virtually to retain them in a state of slavery, every opportunity is taken advantage of to point out to them their new, improved, and happy condition.

27. The labourers are fully aware of the existence of, and the advantages afforded them by, the Courts of Appeal, and immediately after my decision in any case is made known, the right of appeal from it is fully explained.

28. I am of opinion that the advantages afforded by the Court of Appeal renders the present judicial system more conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their "free condition," than that existing under the late special magistrates.

29. The quantity of sugar made by proprietors of estates in this parish, for labourers attached thereto, amounts, according to the information I have been able to gather, to one hundred barrels, the average value of each barrel being 5*l.* currency; but I am inclined to suppose that more than that quantity has been made.

30. (In consequence I suppose of the great scarcity of provisions necessary for raising stock,) very little is raised by the labourers in this parish.

31. In consequence of the very great spell of dry weather at this season of the year, all provisions, corn, &c. &c., that were planted, will, with few exceptions, be a total failure.

32. The prospects of the ensuing crop are very bad in this parish; the cultivation has been good, but the season has been, and still continues, as unfavourable as it is unusual.

33. There has been since the abolition of apprenticeship a greatly increased demand from the labouring population for the luxuries of life, such as wine, dress, &c. &c., which demand still continues.

34. Savings' Banks and Friendly Societies would no doubt be beneficial: one of the latter has been established by the rector of this parish, and since my last report, has greatly increased its number.

35. I was brought up in England, and have no hesitation in saying that the peasantry of Barbados, as at present circumstanced, is as happy as that of England, exclusive of the advantage afforded the former by the difference of the climate.

36. An act to punish and suppress vagrancy is much required, as also the establishment of a lunatic asylum.

(Signed)

FRANCIS THORNHILL, Police Magistrate.

No. 3.—*Parish of St. George.*

1. Heretofore idle and irregular; but within the last six months, there has been a visible and decided improvement in their general habits of industry, which is quite apparent to every observant eye.

2. Assaults and batteries, and petty thefts; and I am sorry to add, that of the latter class of offences there is an increased number.

3. In general, there is a very good feeling between the labourers and their employers, and I doubt not this feeling will improve, when both parties must mutually benefit; where a contrary feeling exists, the causes of dissatisfaction may be traced to these sources, namely, that of the labourers deserting the estates on which they are domiciled, during the hours of labour, and seeking employment elsewhere, or an unwillingness to yield that time or amount of labour equivalent to a day's service.

4. I have no doubt that time, and a pure and equitable administration of the laws, will ultimately tend to the establishment of a good understanding between those classes; and from the facilities which are now afforded all appellants for justice, the supervising powers of the Assistant Court of Appeal, and the vigilant watchfulness of the executive, cannot in my humble opinion, fail to produce those happy effects so desirable, and so essential to the existence of a healthy state of things, the consummation of which I look forward to, at no far distant period, with feelings the most pleasurable.

5. They do not labour as willingly as they ought to do, but decidedly they have improved: necessity has partly remedied this evil, and time alone will perfect the work.

6. Generally from 7 o'clock in the morning to 4 o'clock in the afternoon, one intermediate hour between 10 and 11 o'clock being taken for breakfast.

7. The employers endeavour as much as possible to avoid task work, except of a particular description; the labourers however, prefer it; but since it is the stumbling-block and bone of contention in nine cases out of every ten, owing to the careless and hurried manner in which the work is performed, it is wise and prudent for their mutual benefit, that it should be avoided, except in certain cases where there is no chance of dispute.

8. Usually the first class labourers receive two bits per day, and the second and invalid classes, a bit and a half; during the crop, or reaping season, they receive an additional half bit to a bit per diem, according to their occupations.

9. The labourers are generally supplied by the estates with cottages and small spots of garden ground; perform five days' labour on the estate every week, for which service they are paid without any deduction; but if otherwise, and they are not prevented by sickness, and can offer no reasonable excuse for their absence from work, a half a bit a day is stopped from their wages for lodging. On many estates the labourers are possessed of allotments of land in addition, from a quarter to a half acre, for which they pay a weekly rental of a bit and a half to four bits.

10. No rent is charged, or set-off made, other than is stated in the preceding answer; this accommodation is afforded the labourer expressly to ensure his undivided services for five days in each week, on the estate for which end he is thus domiciled.

11. They engage simply to perform day labour, and there is nothing to bind them beyond that period. No records of this nature have been lodged in my office.

12. They have a total aversion to written agreements, and they rarely enter into verbal ones.

13. Very litigiously disposed indeed, but their differences are easily settled; they quarrel one moment and agree the next, and are as social in their intercourse as though nothing had ever happened to interrupt their tranquillity.

14. The disallowance of the late island acts, regulating the relations between masters and servants, and providing for the suppression of vagrancy, I consider to have been wise, inasmuch as employers and labourers have both to a certain extent benefited by the non-existence of those laws, although the absence of them has not been wholly without its alloy.

15. I investigated a complaint of ejectment in the month of April last, from Windsor Plantation, and after a long and patient hearing I effected an amicable adjustment of the matter; in this case, the labourer was decidedly in error. I have otherwise interfered with and adjusted many other questions; chiefly on the score of appraisement of provisions in allotments of land, where the employer and labourer could no longer understand each other; and I have most frequently succeeded in satisfying both parties; faults have appeared on either side.

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16. Some few have quitted, but not a considerable number.
17. Many have returned; they are in general very much attached to the estates on which they have been born and brought up.
18. All those who have returned to the estates, have, I apprehend, resumed their usual work.
19. To various trades, hawkers, hucksters, butchers, bread-sellers, porters, grooma, &c. &c.
20. Some time ago a few emigrated, but I have not heard of any latterly. I believe the feeling is rather against emigration, owing to the prompt measures taken by his Excellency the Governor, in warning the labourers against imposition, thereby averting an evil not only to themselves, but also to that of the country.
21. I am of opinion that the labouring population is quite ample for carrying on the culture of the soil, would they willingly apply themselves to this end; but I think in the present state of things we could not spare any number of agricultural labourers, without serious disadvantage to the island.
22. Their condition is certainly not good; a great majority indulge in habits of idleness, in which they are supported by their parents.
23. There are two public schools, supported partly by the parish, and partly from funds at the Lord Bishop's disposal; as well as private schools; the attendance both at the schools and at church are fully equal to the accommodation.
24. The proprietors would gladly employ the children on the estates, and pay a full price for their services either in money or food; but generally the parents are obstinately averse to training their children to agricultural labour.
25. The labourers, as far as my observation extends (and I have been particularly mindful on this subject, feeling myself involved in the question), do appear to take a most lively interest with reference to those distinctions; they are glad (and who will venture to deny the *fact*) to witness the abrogation of those restraints which have hitherto marked their energies, and thwarted the enterprize of their class. They evince but one uniform disposition, that is, to work for those that treat them *best*; and if I am to speak from my own experience, and from other means afforded me of forming an opinion, it is to those classes of inhabitants who have it in their power to afford them permanent employment, they yield a preference, looking only to their immediate interests, without reference either to the one or the other.
26. I have perceived no such desire on the part of the authorities or gentry of the country.
27. The labourers are fully aware of the existence of the Assistant Court of Appeal, and of their right to apply thereto. I never fail to impress them with the benefits arising from that tribunal.
28. The present judicial system is, in my opinion, far more conducive to the welfare and happiness of the labouring population in their free condition, than that which prevailed during the time of apprenticeship.
29. No sugar having been made since this question was last answered, I think I may fairly presume to state the same quantity as last, namely, 60 hogsheads, amounting to the sum of two thousand five hundred pounds currency, more or less.
30. This question is the most difficult of all to be answered. My substitute in office found by returns made to him, that the labourers were possessed of 30 horses, 1,000 sheep, 250 goats, 250 horned cattle, 1,500 pigs, and 5,000 head of poultry; but it is almost impossible to ascertain this fact with any degree of accuracy; I must therefore adopt his answer, and agree with him in thinking it far short the actual quantity possessed by the labourers of this district.
31. There is less corn and ground provisions housed at this time than was at the same period last year; but there is more planted than was then, yet by no means so much as used to be planted formerly; the season has been so unfavourable, I cannot hazard an opinion.
32. The prospects of the ensuing crop are very bad; the general state of cultivation in my district is admitted to be very good; the season has been most unfavourable.
33. There is a greatly increased demand for the necessaries, and I may add also, for some of the luxuries of life: in articles of dress, particularly, they indulge to excess.
34. Savings' Banks might, in time, benefit the labouring population of this island; but nothing of this kind being in operation here, and there being no particular show attached to such institutions, I do not think the labourers would so readily avail themselves of this means of funding their little savings; however, it may be tried, and I have no doubt may ultimately prove successful. Of Friendly Societies I have the highest opinion; they are already partially established in this island, and we have daily proofs of the well working of these institutions: the labourers fully understand the principle, and readily subscribe to them, by which means they not only treasure up a fund, and provide against want when old age and infirmity overtake them, but the social habits of the members of these useful societies are regulated, and their moral and religious characters watched over, thereby giving a tone and consequence to this class of inhabitants, which cannot fail to raise them in the scale of importance, and ultimately ensure to the community in which they live a useful, happy, and contented peasantry, and good and lawful subjects to their sovereign. The ministers of religion are the fittest persons to set about the formation of these societies in their several districts.
35. When we look at the situation of the peasantry of other countries, and contrast the situation of the labouring classes of this island, no one will question the superior advantages the latter possess over the former. They are on the whole a happy people, and have it in their power of rendering themselves more so every day.
36. I would respectfully suggest the enactment of a law for the prevention and summary punishment of frauds, which are daily being committed on the labouring population and others by petty tradespeople; also an act to regulate and settle the relations between masters and servants, and to afford protection to the labourers from sudden and abrupt ejection from their cottages and land allotments.

(Signed)

THOMAS J. CUMMINGS, Police Magistrate.

No. 4.—Parish of St. John.

1. The labourers of this district have been generally peaceable as a body, but insolent to their superiors; they have been latterly more regular and orderly at their labours.

4. I am of opinion that the common interest of employer and labourer will gradually tend, in the altered condition of society, to the establishment of a good understanding between those classes, without external intervention.

5. The labourers of this district, for the last twelve months, in consequence of the price of food having remained at a standard beyond the price it bore during the apprenticeship, and immediately subsequent, have given a more continuous labour than heretofore, and are generally working willingly. In those cases of exception I ascribe it to a defect in the existing system of tenancy.

6. The working hours are usually from sunrise to ten o'clock, and from eleven to four in the afternoon.

7. Task work is not now generally adopted in this district, the system having been in most instances abandoned, in consequence of the negligent performance of the allotted task by the labourer.

8. The ordinary rate of wages is two bits per day, and during the reaping season, or when an extra portion of labour is required in each day, the increased pay is estimated at that ratio. The labourers are usually paid weekly in silver coin.

9. Labourers are generally supplied with lodging and a small spot of land for their cultivation, by the estates on which they are employed; a continuous labour of five days per week is usually required, for which daily labour they are paid, as stated in the foregoing answer, without any deduction being made for rent of house or land; but in cases where the labourers omit to give the five days' labour, a practice is obtaining of deducting from their wages a certain quota for such blank days. There are some estates on which a larger portion of land is allowed the labourers, for which they pay a stipulated labour rent.

10. This question is answered by the foregoing.

11. Since the disallowance of the late island Act for hiring of servants, it seems to be mutually understood that the relation of employer and labourer exists only from day to day.

12. The labourer seems to have an aversion to all contracts, especially written contracts.

13. The labouring population are litigiously disposed to each other, and disunited in their interests.

14. The disallowance of the late island laws, regulating the relations between master and servant, and providing for the suppression of vagrancy, has very much increased freedom of action to the labourer, but has likewise subjected him to hasty ejectments.

15. I have never been called upon to investigate complaints on account of the undue occupation of houses by the labourers; the planters having generally themselves dislodged such occupants; and the labourers themselves are now fully aware of the absence of all legal claim to their houses.

The system of hasty ejectment of labourers has been generally abandoned in this parish.

16. I apprehend that although there is a considerable diminution in the number of labourers employed in cane cultivation, there has been rather an increase of that class during the last twelve months, who are more or less employed in agriculture.

17. Many labourers have returned to work on plantations from which they had removed on the 1st of August, 1838. I consider the labourers are very much attached to plantations on which they have been brought up.

18. I apprehend that those persons who have abandoned agricultural labour have usually betaken themselves to the town and its environs, where they are employed in all sorts of irregular work.

19. There seems no desire on the part of the labourers to emigrate at present; I know of no instance in my district.

20. I do not consider that there is any surplus of population in this island, and I think that emigration would be attended with injury, inasmuch as this colony is so constituted as to preclude the use of machinery to any great extent.

21. The children of the labouring population are nearly in a state of idleness; from the inadequate intelligence existing amongst the labouring population, they have subjected their children to most pernicious habits of life, and from their mistaken ideas of improvement, insist on their entire emancipation from plantation field work; they place them at the various private schools which have obtained since the abolition of apprenticeship, where the imperfect system of discipline leaves the child without sufficient restraint and employment for the greater portion of the day; and he is, consequently, growing up in habits of vagrancy, and imbibing the erroneous idea that field labour is derogatory to the improved condition of the Barbados peasant. Those children who have arrived beyond the age of infancy are generally well clothed and fed by their parents; they are generally unprovided with regular medical attendance. Many instances have come under my notice where infants have been grossly neglected by their mothers.

22. There are two good parochial schools, besides a well-conducted school in the Codrington Trust estates, where the children of labourers are indiscriminately admitted at a trifling cost; and a parish church and two chapels open for the religious instruction of all classes. The attendance at church is not equal to the accommodation afforded.

23. Children are very rarely employed on the estates where they are located with their parents, which is solely to be attributed to a great disinclination on the part of the parents to train their children to agricultural pursuits.

24. I believe they do take a lively interest in the complexional distinctions between the several classes of the inhabitants in certain respects.

25. Amongst the lowest class of planters there may have been an interference, arising from misconception and ignorance.

26. The labouring population are fully aware of the existence of the Assistant Court of Appeal.

27. I consider the present judicial system, as obtaining since the creation of the Assistant Court of Appeal, as compared to that existing under the special magistrates, as most conducive to the labouring population.

28. The prospect of the ensuing crop is bad, the general state of cultivation is excellent. The late seasons have been most unfavourable, and owing to the great want of rain, the ensuing sugar crop has been materially injured.

29. I am of opinion that at the present time there is a greatly increased demand for the luxuries of life, such as wines, articles of dress, &c. amongst the labouring population.

30. I am of opinion that Savings' Banks would be highly beneficial to the labouring classes; but I think that they would not be contributed to by the labourers at present, their improvident habits, as acquired during slavery and apprenticeship, being the cause.

31. Comparing their situation with that of the labouring classes of other portions of the British dominions, I do consider the labourers of Barbados the most prosperous peasantry as at present circum-

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stanced. But the vague notions they entertain of their yet ill-defined interests, the erroneous impressions which encumber the well working of the present system, together with the immorality of the lives of labourers, render them a discontented and an unsettled peasantry.

32. I have to suggest that the law providing constables' fees, especially fees for commitment of prisoners, is defective as at present constituted. The constable does not obtain payment of the fees on commitment of prisoners, which is the most arduous of his duties.

(Signed)

HENRY PILGRIM, Police Magistrate.

No. 5.—*Parish of Christ Church.*

1. The labourers in this district are in general well disposed, and a very gratifying improvement has lately taken place in the conduct of those who a short time since were indulging in habits of idleness, alike injurious to themselves and their employers.

2. Of petty thefts, and breaches of the peace.

3. There is no want of good feeling between the labourers and their employers.

4. The good understanding which now prevails between employers and labourers, will, I have no doubt, continue to exist, as both parties seem to be aware that their common interest require it; and I am of opinion, that it will be best preserved by their keeping in view, and acting up to the obligations they mutually owe to each other. Speculations as to any supposed advantage to be derived from "external intervention," cannot be too much deprecated, as such a proceeding would assuredly prove injurious to both classes.

5. Generally speaking, the labourers willingly undertake work, but it cannot be said that they give full scope to their physical powers. I feel myself warranted in this remark, from the circumstance of there being less land under cultivation now than during the apprenticeship and the existence of slavery.

6. The working hours are generally from 6 to 10, and from 11 to 4 o'clock.

7. Task work is not much resorted to. Proprietors object to it, from the careless manner in which the labourers perform it.

8. The general rate of wages is two bits per day for first-class labourers, the other classes in proportion. During the crop, cane-cutters are paid a quarter dollar per day, and the manufacturers three bits.

9. Labourers domiciled on properties are supplied with good houses, and generally with a spot of land (about a quarter of an acre), as a garden, free of rent.

10. The general understanding between the labourers and their employers for the privilege of enjoying the house and land given to the former, is, that for the wages agreed on, they will work on the property of their employers when required. If they give their services to other properties, against the will of their employers, they are then charged rent, at the rate of one bit per day, for each day spent in the service of strangers.

11. No contracts of service have ever been lodged in my office, nor am I aware that any have been entered into between labourers and employers, the general practice in use leaving each party free to act as he may think fit.

12. The labourers are opposed to written agreements.

13. The labourers as a body are kindly disposed to each other.

14. The labouring population has not, in my opinion, been relieved in any way by the disallowance of the contract and vagrant acts; as the former, whilst it was in force, secured them for a fixed period their houses and lands, and the latter protected them against the aggressions of idle and worthless characters.

15. I have not.

16. There has not been any very great diminution of late in the number of agricultural labourers in this parish.

17. The labourers have in many cases returned to the properties from which they removed on the 1st of August, as they are generally much attached to the places on which they were born and brought up.

18. The labourers who have returned have cheerfully resumed work on the properties which they quitted after the 1st of August, 1838.

19. The labourers who have withdrawn from agricultural work have betaken themselves to domestic service, trades, and huckstering.

20. I should think that the labourers have no desire to emigrate, as I have only been required to grant one certificate for that purpose.

21. I do not think we can spare any labourers for emigration to other colonies. I am happy to say that the labourers are beginning to feel the necessity of rearing up their children in habits of industry, and that their aversion to agricultural pursuits is not now so great as it was some months past.

23. In this parish there are a church, four chapels, and another in course of erection, and seven public schools in operation. The accommodation they afford is much greater than the attendance of persons at them.

24. Referring to answer 22, I am enabled to say that the children are readily employed for hire where the parents consent to it.

25. The labourers seem to take a decided interest in the complexional distinctions between the white, coloured, and black inhabitants, and to lean with greater confidence on the good will of the whites.

26. The value of freedom is so well known and felt, and its rights so justly appreciated, that no one would have the folly to attempt an interference, with the view to prolong slavery.

27. The labourers are fully aware of the existence of the Assistant Court of Appeal.

reply on the subject from this office, the proprietors and overseers of estates were applied to for returns, and only thirty-six properties out of ninety furnished them.

31. I have no reason to apprehend a scarcity of food, although from the drought which prevailed throughout this parish during the last month, there will be a falling-off in the corn and provision crop.

32. The sugar crop will be very short in this parish, owing to the unfavourable seasons of the last year; and from the same cause, the general state of cultivation is rather discouraging.

33. The demand for the luxuries of life has greatly increased amongst the labouring population since the abolition of apprenticeship.

34. Savings' Banks and Friendly Societies cannot fail to advance the labouring population, and improve their morals and habits of industry. Friendly Societies are already established to some extent, and are found to be very beneficial in their operations; and as they are readily contributed to by the labouring classes, it is to be hoped that Savings' Banks, when established, would receive their zealous support, as the best means of improving their surplus earnings.

35. The peasantry of Barbados may make themselves the happiest peasantry in the world, as they are well provided for in everything essential to their comfort.

36. The enactments of laws, for affording summary relief to the labouring population, particularly in reference to minor trespasses, distraint to facilitate the recovery of possession of tenements after due determination of the tenancy, when the rent does not exceed a limited sum (say fifteen or twenty pounds per annum), is much desired.

(Signed)

JOSEPH P. EVELYN, Police Magistrate.

No. 6.—*Parish of St. Peter.*

1. The conduct of the labouring population in this parish is quiet and orderly.

2. The majority of cases brought before me are for disorderly conduct in the town; some cases for petty theft, and a few for assault and battery among the labouring population.

3. The employers manifest every disposition to conciliate the labourers, between whom the best feeling at present exists.

4. Practical observations has fully confirmed me in the opinion, that any attempt to interrupt the present course of things by external intervention, must be productive of evil.

5. The labourers in this district are regular and willing in the performance of their work.

6. From 6 to 9, and from 10 to 4.

7. Task or job work is generally resorted to when practicable. The labourers seem to prefer this mode of working, and the planter is not opposed to it, except when the labourer is employed in weeding young plants. This seems to be an exception to the general rule in Barbados.

8. The rate of wages seems to be fixed at two bits per day.

9. The general rule in this parish is to provide the labourer with a house, to which is added a spot of land, varying from one-quarter to one-eighth of an acre. The labourers pay no rent, but are subject to a tax whenever they absent themselves from their work.

10. The occupation of their house and land form no part of their wages: they are considered as tenants at will.

11. Nothing beyond daily engagements exist in this parish, nor do the labourers seem disposed to enter into any contract, written or verbal.

12. No contracts either written or verbal exist in this parish.

13. I am very seldom called upon to settle disputes among the labouring population.

14. I am of opinion that a contract act would be beneficial to the labouring population; but I am not prepared to say that they will be disposed to avail themselves of its advantages.

15. Applications to eject labourers are now rare. The employers are perfectly aware of the value of a good labourer, and I have latterly remarked that ejectments are only resorted to in extreme cases, where the conduct of the labourer has been such as to render any compromise injudicious.

16. Immediately after the first of August, 1838, a great many of the agricultural labourers quitted their locations, and sought employment as domestics, &c. &c.

17. Many labourers who quitted to seek other than agricultural labour have returned to their former domiciles; and I am induced to believe that they have been incited to do so by a strong feeling of attachment to the place of their birth.

18. Many of the labourers who quitted since the first of August have returned and resumed labour.

19. The majority of labourers who have quitted agricultural labour are now seeking employment as porters, &c. about the town.

20. There is evidently a disinclination on the part of the labourers to emigrate.

21. I have no reason to believe that there is a surplus quantity of labourers.

22. The children appear to me to be at present healthy and thriving, and are supported by the industry of the parents.

23. We have four schools under the direction of the established church, supported by parochial funds, and a grant from the Lord Bishop; several schools conducted by private individuals, besides an extensive one under the superintendence of the Wesleyan Society, all numerously attended. The Parish Church and Wesleyan Chapel are in Speights' Town; the attendance at the church is not equal to the accommodation.

24. The planter is always ready to engage the service of the children in agricultural labour, suited to their bodily strength and capacity. A great disinclination exists on the part of the parents to train their children to agricultural pursuits.

25. I am not aware that the late slave population take any interest in complexional distinctions, nothing has ever occurred before me to justify such a conclusion.

26. I believe that the authorities and gentry would gladly encourage any advance to the true and just exercise of the rights of freedom; and I do not believe that there is a single individual who desires a recurrence to the past existing state of bondage.

27. All classes of persons seem perfectly aware of the existence of the Assistant Court of Appeal, and avail themselves of its ready access whenever it suits their will or convenience.

28. My opinion is that the present judicial system is far preferable to any that has preceded it; all classes seem to have the utmost confidence in the newly constituted Court.

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29 and 30. In my answers to these questions in my last report, I detailed the quantity of sugar, number of horses, horned cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs, and I am not disposed to think that the quantity of stock has diminished since that period.

31. The continued drought has caused a total failure in the yam crop, and prevented the planting the usual quantity of potatoes; the consequence will be, I am afraid, a great scarcity of food during the early part of this year.

32. Three months ago there was a prospect of an average crop; but the continued drought has completely blighted that prospect.

33. There is a strong inclination on the part of the labourers to indulge in luxuries.

34. In the absence of a *poor law*, I am of opinion that Savings' Banks and Friendly Societies will become indispensably *necessary*; but I am not prepared to say at this time that the labourers would be disposed to support the one or other; whenever these institutions are to be established, I recommend that it be done through the agency of the clergy.

35. I consider the labouring population in this country as happy as any peasantry in the world; and I am confident, from my own observations, that they think so themselves, and if left to the exercise of their own judgment, uninfluenced by those who have no direct interest in the successful working of the free system, I have no doubt that in a short time all classes of persons will justly appreciate the blessings which freedom has conferred.

36. In my last report I recommended some provision being made for the destitute poor; some legislative enactment regulating the porters, boatmen, &c., &c., of this town, and a modification of the building ordinance, which I beg most respectfully to call his Excellency's attention to.

(Signed) JOHN T. CORBIN, Police Magistrate.

No. 7.—Parish of St. Thomas.

I have the honour to state that I do not see any reason to alter my report from No. 1 to 23, in the second series, to which number I beg respectfully to add, that on the 26th ultimo, the Lord Bishop consecrated in the east part of this parish, near Ashford's estate, an entire new Chapel, called the Holy Innocents, which is calculated to accommodate about 700 persons, and I can now say that the accommodation is equal to the attendance.

The erection of this additional place of worship reflects the greatest credit on the vestry and parishioners in general; and, together with a grant from the Parent Society in England, has cost about 2,000*l.* currency. While on this subject, permit me to say, that I cannot speak in terms too high of our worthy and indefatigable rector, the Rev. W. H. B. Bovell, whose well-earned influence in the parish, assists me materially in promoting the peace and contentment of the labouring population; and it is indeed highly gratifying to observe the interest he takes in the formation of friendly societies.

In January 1839, the number in the female society was 177, and in the male, 126, making a total of 303; and on this day (January 4th), the female society consists of 380, and the male 240, making a total of 570, and showing an increase of 153 females, and 114 males.

On the last anniversary, in the past month, the Lord Bishop, the Archdeacon, and many of the Clergy honoured the society with their presence, and attended Divine Service.

From No. 23 to 32, I have little to add, but that the whole of the latter part of 1839 has been exceedingly unfavourable to agriculture, and am very sorry to say, that there will be, in consequence, a serious falling-off in the sugar crop.

To No. 34 I beg leave to refer to my addition to No. 23 of my present communication.

To No. 35, in addition to what I before stated, I beg leave to add, that to my certain knowledge the peasantry of Barbados are a happier people than those of England, Ireland, Spain, and Portugal, and are much to be envied by the peasantry of other countries.

(Signed) J. CAREW, Police Magistrate.

No. 8.—Parish of St. Joseph.

1. As regards more regular working, and more industrious habits, a very decided improvement is going on.

2. While assaults and batteries have greatly subsided, and petty debts are fast disappearing, I grieve to say, that *larcenies* have greatly increased, as my regular "Fortnight Returns" must attest.

3 and 4. Vide 1st series.

5. With daily increasing willingness and regularity.

6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15. Vide 1st series.

16. My reply in the 1st series states a "very great diminution," but I think that this evil is gradually redressing itself by the return of *inferior* mechanics to the field labour, and by the readiness of the labourers generally to undertake Saturday's work for fair wages.

17, 18, 19, and 20. Vide 1st series.

21. My reply to this does not materially, if at all, differ from that of 1st series; but I regret to add that in this and the neighbouring parish, and if I am correctly informed, in several others, a considerable and undue mortality among children, and especially younger ones, has occurred, which no reigning epidemic has occasioned.

22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27. Vide 1st series.

28. Not quite so bad in this district as in most others, though bad in the best. The season has been deplorable, from want of rain.

29, 30, 31, and 32. Vide 1st series.

(Signed) W. S. AUSTIN, Police Magistrate.

No. 9.—Parish of St. Lucy.

4. I believe the interest and good feeling of employers and labourers would be established, if there were no external interventions.
5. They do perform their work with much more willingness of late. Formerly they did not understand their position, and thought by the word "Freedom," they were to have comforts without industry.
6. Nine hours a day out of crop time, performed when most convenient to the labourers; and in crop time, extra payment for work done at any time beyond the nine hours.
7. Task work is now generally preferred by employers and labourers.
8. Two bits per day, and in crop time half bit per hogshhead to all employed about mill and boiling house, as an equivalent for time spent beyond nine hours in the manufacture of sugar.
9. The labourers are generally supplied with lodgings, and the great majority of them have comfortable houses gratuitously; they have also on most estates a quarter of an acre of land each, and no charge made for it.
10. When the labourers bestow their labour on other estates than those on which they have houses or land, they are generally charged from half a bit to a bit for each day's absence, but not otherwise.
11. No contracts for work have ever been made. In giving task work, the employers and labourers are generally guided by the "scale of labour" established at the commencement of the apprenticeship.
12. They have an objection to being restrained by any agreements, whether verbal or written.
13. Very litigiously disposed.
14. The disallowance of the late island laws, regulating the relations between masters and servants, and providing for the suppression of vagrancy, has, I feel assured, been equally injurious to both parties.
15. I have only been called on to investigate one complaint of this nature, in which the labourer was decidedly in fault.
16. A very great diminution did take place for a long time, but latterly they have in a great measure resumed their agricultural occupation; this, I think, has been occasioned by the unfavourable weather, and consequent scarcity of provisions.
17. A great many have latterly returned and settled themselves quietly. The labourers generally, now, show a great attachment to the properties on which they have been born and brought up.
18. They have mostly returned, and I believe would never have quitted, but for the influence of false advisers.
19. Hawking and pedling, and infesting the towns, passing themselves off as domestics.
20. None to my knowledge.
21. I am of opinion that agricultural labourers cannot be spared.
22. Their condition is good, and they are supported by their parents, but mostly out of the means of the estates on which they live.
23. The parish only provides one large school room. There are numerous private schools where education can be had very cheaply. The attendance at church, and in the schools, is equal to the accommodation.
24. Very few capable of doing anything are allowed by their parents to remain on any estates in the day time. The parents have a decided objection to training them to agricultural pursuits, and they are generally apprenticed to trades, going to school, or wasting their time in idleness.
25. None.
26. None.
27. They are fully; for I remind them of it in my office every week.
28. Happier under this tribunal, being less restrained than during the apprenticeship.
29. On all estates of any size, they made several barrels of sugar the last crop; the exact quantity I have not been able to ascertain.
30. On all estates they keep pigs, sheep, goats, and poultry to a great extent, and on some they have horned cattle.
31. Ground provisions, corn, &c., have been planted largely of late, but owing to the unfavourable weather, they have mostly failed; consequently, I fear as great a scarcity of them as has yet been felt, and should anything occur to interrupt the regular importation of foreign supplies, I feel assured there would be a famine in the land in a very short time.
32. The prospects of the ensuing crop are very bad; the preparation land is rather more forward on most estates than at this season last year.
33. I am aware that there has been, since the abolition of apprenticeship, a greatly increased demand for the luxuries of life, such as wine, finery in dress, &c.
34. I do not think that Savings' Banks or Friendly Societies would be contributed to by the labourers, as I believe they spend their money as fast as earned.
35. In comparing their situation with what I have observed of the peasantry of England, and more particularly of Ireland, I conceive them a very happy peasantry as at present circumstanced.
36. I conceive that a contract, trespass, and vagrant act, being in force immediately, would be very beneficial to the community in general.

(Signed)

A. H. MORRIS, Police Magistrate.

No. 10.—*Parish of St. Andrew.*

The information requested from me, relative to the questions I last had the honour of receiving, I would have given several days ago, but I am sorry that I cannot put my hand upon them in looking over my official papers. They must have been either misplaced or lost in removing from St. Andrew's. As my reply to *all* of them is now the *same*, I request the indulgence of this information being accepted in the room of that more official, which I should have had the honour of sending. I beg to repeat my very sincere regret at this circumstance.

(Signed)

NATHANIEL ROACH, Police Magistrate.

No. 11.—*Parish of St. Michael, Bridgetown.*

1. Generally speaking, quiet and orderly, with few exceptions, but much inclined to idleness.
2. Of petty thefts, assaults, and batteries.
3. There is a general distrust of their employers, attributable in a great degree to the inflammatory

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and highly injudicious remarks of two island journals, which the labourers are taught to believe favourable to them; but since this answer to the question last year, we believe that feeling is being dissipated. The labourer is beginning to understand his true interest, and one of these obnoxious papers has sunk into merited oblivion.

4. We should sincerely deprecate any external intervention, as we conceive, if left to itself, the common interest will produce a general good understanding between parties so connected as labourer and employer.

5. We should say rather unwillingly, from a habit of idleness and a feeling engendered by their newly-acquired freedom. The labourer is a creature of impulse, his wants are few, and he will spend in idleness one week the money he acquires the other.

6. From 7 to 10, and from 11 to 4.

7. There is a great deal of task work accomplished in this parish, but when objections are made they are generally on the part of the labourer, who is not frequently inclined to perform any stated quantity of work.

8. Two bits per diem, and an increase of about one-third more during the manufacturing of sugar, when they are frequently employed beyond the usual time, as stated in answer to the 6th query; in all such cases liberal payment and allowances are made for the extra time.

9. They are so, as long as they continue to work on the estates on which they are located, and that gratis: in some cases an extra portion of land is hired them, at the rate of from seven to ten pounds per acre.

10. The occupation of the house, and privilege of planting and reaping the fruits of the land, is generally held out to them as a bonus for continued labour five days in the week on their location, but it usually forms no part of the payment of their daily labour.

11. The labourer is entirely averse to written agreements, and seldom or never makes any; he usually engages verbally, but for no specified time, and can quit whenever he pleases; of course no records have been lodged in our office.

12. Answered by the preceding.

13. They have but little confidence in each other, and are most litigiously inclined; they fly to law to remedy fancied as well as real grievances.

14. We conceive the disallowance of these laws has had a very pernicious tendency, particularly towards the labouring population, who leave their comfortable homes from whim, caprice, or the most trifling occasions, and fly to this town in search of preferment, which they cannot obtain; are frequently (particularly the juvenile), placed in great distress, and become the prey of greedy speculators, who induce them to emigrate, under specious promises of increased wages and more comfortable habitation.

15. Very rarely; and in a few cases we have generally induced an amicable arrangement. In a few instances the labourer seemed to think he had a right to his domicile, although refusing to work on the plantation he is located; that idea has not entirely subsided, but speaking generally there have been faults on both sides.

16. In reply to this question last year we answered in the negative, but such hopes are now falsely (we believe) held out to the labourer, by well paid and interested speculators and agents, and he is so assured that he will better his condition, that we are afraid a sensible diminution is taking place.

17. In many instances they have returned to the properties they removed from. It is only the aged and infirm, and fathers and mothers of large families, who seem attached to the soil they have been born and bred on.

18. It is impossible to ascertain the exact number; but very many have done so.

19. Huckstering and petty trading, and as porters, and employment on board of ships in stowing away sugars, &c., &c., where they get ample payment.

20. The labourer of this country is foud of change, and open to the delusive promises of interested agents. Hitherto a few of the unwary and most dissolute have left the country; but generally speaking we do not think there is any great desire on the part of the labourers to emigrate, although emigration is considerably more in fashion than last year.

21. We do not think any portion of our agricultural labourers could be spared from the island generally; there is certainly a redundant population in Bridgetown, many of whom could be well spared.

22. Very bad indeed; their parents usually supply their wants, and bring them up in idleness and bad habits; a great increase in the number of juvenile offenders has taken place since last year.

23. There are six chapels or licensed places for public worship in this parish; besides St. Michael's Cathedral. They altogether will contain about 6,000 persons; they are scarcely or ever full; therefore we should say there is accommodation. There are eleven public schools well attended, besides many private ones; and these are increasing from the indefatigable zeal and pious endeavours of the Lord Bishop and his Clergy, and all in authority, to facilitate moral and religious instruction, and to extend the benefit of education.

24. They would most readily be employed on hire by the owners and managers of estates; but the parents are particularly averse to bring their children up to agricultural labour, or in fact to any proper pursuit; they generally keep them at home for their own purposes.

25. They appear to repose more confidence in the white population (with some few exceptions), and generally in all cases of litigation prefer to be tried by them.

26. The very reverse is the case. We conceive the authorities and gentry are doing all in their power, both by precept and example, to elevate the newly emancipated in the scale of society; and that no individual of education or respectability would even wish a state of slavery prolonged.

27. Universally so; and we give them most particular information on the subject, and afford them every facility to appeal from our decisions.

28. Most unquestionably preferable under this valuable Court, who sit publicly in Bridgetown, under the immediate eye of the Executive, and who execute their duties zealously for the public good.

31. We believe there is. Both the planter and labourer have seen the fallacy of confining themselves to the cultivation of the staple commodity alone; and although a great drought has prevailed, yet a large quantity of ground provisions has been planted.

32. In answer to this question, when last put to us, we stated "Not so favourable as last year; in some parts of the island the prospect is bad indeed, from the want of rain; in some more favourable situations the cultivation is good." But at the present period the prospect is indeed bad, owing entirely to the unusually long drought. The preparation for the ensuing crop has been excellent in this parish.

33. There has been; but more particularly in the articles of dress.

34. We think they would be beneficial; but the labourer is so unreflecting and so little inclined to consider for to-morrow, that we believe few if any would subscribe to such an institution, or be made to understand its benefits.

35. Unquestionably, and beyond a doubt more happy than the peasantry of Ireland; and, taking climate into consideration, better off than that class of persons in England. As soon as the diffusion of religious knowledge takes place, and they better understand their moral obligations, the peasantry will be as happy and contented as anywhere else.

36. None. If the labourer is left to himself, and not taught to consider his situation bad, by selfish and interested parties ignorant of our localities, asperities will soften down and things gradually merge into a proper understanding; and we should respectfully and humbly express a wish that those good and wholesome laws passed for the general good by the local legislature, in the true spirit of justice and equity to all parties, may be allowed to take effect, particularly the Vagrant Act, and that for regulating the relation between masters and servants.

(Signed)

E. H. MOORE,
R. HENDY,
C. GILL, } Police Magistrates.

QUESTIONS FOR QUARTERLY REPLY from the Police Magistracy of the Island of BARBADOS.

Between 1st January and 31st March, 1840.

1. What has been the general conduct of the labourers in the parish under your magisterial jurisdiction, since your last quarterly report?

2. Of what particular description of offences do the majority of the cases brought before you consist?

3. Is there any want of good feeling between the labourers and their employers; and, if so, to what cause do you attribute it?

4. Are you of opinion that the common interests of the employers and labourers will gradually tend, in the altered condition of the colonial society, to the establishment of a good understanding between those classes, without the aid of external intervention?

5. Do the labourers perform their work willingly; and, if not, to what cause do you ascribe it?

6. What are the working hours generally in use in your parish?

7. Is task work generally resorted to in your parish? If not, does the objection lie with the masters or the labourers?

8. What is the ordinary rate of wages; and how are the labourers paid in the reaping season, as well as in other months?

9. Are the labourers generally supplied with lodging and a spot of cultivable land upon the estates on which they may engage to work? If so, upon what terms?

10. Is the occupation of the house, and the privilege of planting the piece of ground attached to it, mutually understood as forming a set-off against the payment of the full daily value of the labourer's work; or is the rent of the house and land a distinct charge, having no reference to the estate duty performed by the labourer?

11. What is the general practice pursued in your parish in hiring labourers? Are they engaged simply to perform day-labour, which engagement is only binding for one day; or do they usually enter into verbal or written agreements for any specified term,—say weekly, monthly, or yearly; and, if so, are any records of that nature lodged in your office?

12. Are the labourers disposed generally to prefer written to verbal agreements?

13. Are the labourers, in their general intercourse with each other, upon a happy footing, or litigiously disposed?

14. Has the renewal of the island laws, regulating the relations between masters and servants, and providing for the suppression of vagrancy, operated to the relief of the labouring population?

15. Have you been called upon to investigate complaints on account of the undue occupation of houses or lands by labourers from the plantations on which they have been working? If so, where does the fault generally exist,—in the employers, the labourers, or both?

16. Are you of opinion that any sensible diminution in the number of agricultural labourers in your parish has taken place since the 1st August, 1838?

17. Have many labourers returned to work on properties from which they removed on the 1st of August, 1838, or subsequently; and do you consider the labourers in general attached to the estates on which they have been born and brought up?

18. To what kind of employment do those persons who have abandoned agricultural labour usually betake themselves?

19. Has emigration to any considerable extent occurred among the labourers of your parish? If so, specify the number; and state to what cause you are disposed to attribute this novel propensity on their part?

20. From your knowledge of the character and feelings of the Barbados peasantry, do you conclude that their emigration has been spontaneous or otherwise?

21. What are the ages, generally speaking, of the emigrants from your parish; and of which of the three classes, males, females, and children, have the majority of emigrants consisted?

22. Are you of opinion there is a surplus population in this island, and that a large proportion of labourers might be spared without disadvantage, for the benefit of colonies where labour is comparatively scarce?

23. What is the condition of the children of the labourers, and how are they supported?

24. What facilities does your parish supply for education and religious instruction? Is the attendance at Church and in the Schools equal to the accommodation?

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25. Are the children readily employed for hire by the estates on which the parents are located; if not, is this attributable to the disinclination of the employers to hire the services of the children, or to any indisposition on the part of the parents to train them to agricultural pursuits?

26. Do the labourers appear to take any interest in the complexional distinction between the white, coloured, or black classes of inhabitants?

27. Have you perceived any desire on the part of the authorities or gentry of the country to interfere with the rights of freedom, acquired under the abolition of apprenticeship by the labouring population, or virtually to retain them in a prolonged state of slavery?

28. Are the labourers fully aware of the existence of the Assistant Court of Appeal?

29. Whether do you consider the judicial system, obtaining since the creation of that tribunal; or that prevailing during the general employment of the late Special Magistrates, most conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition?

30. Are the labourers fully aware of the institution of Courts of Reconciliation in this Island; if so, do they cheerfully attend when summoned as jurors, and do they evince an interest in the proceedings?

31. Have you had many opportunities of bringing those tribunals into operation for the adjustment of their differences; and are you of opinion that their permanent establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes?

32. Whether do you consider the judicial system obtaining since the creation of the Court of Appeal, or that prevailing during the general employment of the late Special Magistrates, most conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition?

33. What quantity of sugar has been made this season in your parish, by proprietors, for the labourers attached thereto, and what amount of money has the same realized?

34. What quantity of stock are the labourers upon the estates in your parish now possessed of?

35. Is such a quantity of ground provisions, corn, &c. now planted, as will in your opinion preclude the possibility of a recurrence of the scarcity threatened in the earlier part of 1839?

36. What are the prospects of the ensuing crop; and what the general state of cultivation? Has the season been favourable, or otherwise?

37. Are you aware that there has been since the abolition of apprenticeship, a greatly increased demand from the labouring population for the luxuries of life, such as wine, articles of dress, &c. &c.?

38. Are you of opinion that Savings' Banks and Friendly Societies would be beneficial to the labouring classes, and be contributed to by them; if so, by what means do you conceive that such institutions may be best promoted?

39. On comparing their situation with that of the labouring classes in other portions of the British dominions, do you consider the labourers of Barbados a happy peasantry as at present circumstanced?

40. Have you any suggestions to make, or any practical measures to recommend, for the benefit of the labouring population in particular, or of this community in general?

ANSWERS.**No. 1.—Parish of St. Philip.**

1. Peaceable as a body, but irregular in their labour.

2. Assaults and batteries, and petty thefts.

3. On some estates in my district, the very best of feeling exists between the labourers and their employers: but generally speaking, quite the contrary; which is to be attributed to sundry causes, such as one estate giving higher wages than another, thereby creating dissatisfaction, as the labourer naturally quits the property he is domiciled on, to dispose of his labour at the highest price; the charging also of one bit per diem for absent days, and on many estates two bits per diem. In my opinion, the only plan to remedy this will be, "that all houses with a spot of land be rented to the labourers, and they to dispose of their labour wherever they please."

4. Time alone will tend in the altered condition of colonial society, to establish a good understanding between all classes, and decidedly much sooner without the aid of external intervention.

5. When proper regularity in payment of wages is strictly attended to, and no stoppage of wages for any trifling deficiency of work performed, the labourers work willingly.

6. From 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., giving two hours for dinner and one for breakfast, at seven hours per day, but on some estates task work is still continued.

7. Task work is not now so generally adopted in my district, as the planters complain of the work being slovenly performed.

8. The rate of wages on estates where the labourers are domiciled, is two bits per day, and during the reaping season, half a bit extra.

9. The house and 1-8th of an acre are generally given in my district gratis, but when they have more land, they pay for it.

10. On some estates they exact one bit per day when absent, from the labourers for their house, but otherwise the house and land have no reference to the estate duty performed by the labourer.

11. Where the labourers are domiciled, they are expected to work five days per week, and are paid weekly. There have been no records lodged in my office as to agreements for any specified term.

12. The labourers seem to have a great aversion to written agreements.

13. Most litigiously disposed.

14. The renewal of these two acts in my opinion has operated to the relief of the labouring population, but more particularly the former, as the labourer is no longer subject to summary ejectment.

15. I have not been called upon to investigate complaints on account of the undue occupation of houses; but when ejectments have been made by overseers, I have invariably had the full value of their growing crop on their allotments paid for.

16. About one hundred and nineteen labourers have quitted this parish to the 31st ult., and emigrated; and I am sorry to add are still quitting in great numbers.

17. The labourers generally, I believe, have returned to the properties from which they removed on the 1st August, and I consider they are attached to the estates on which they have been born and brought up.

18. To trade and huckstering.
19. I beg to refer to query 16 for the number of emigrants that have quitted this parish, and the chief cause is from the enticement of emigration agents, and their emissaries.
20. Certainly not, but by the persuasion of emigration agents, and the causes above alluded to.
21. From the years of 50 down, and of the three classes, male, female, and children, much the same proportion.
22. I am of opinion that we have no surplus population in the island as to agricultural labourers, and that none can be spared without great disadvantage.
23. The children are supported entirely by their parents; their condition is any thing but good, as they are brought up in a state of idleness.
24. We have three parochial schools, and four or five others. The attendance at church is fully equal to the accommodation.
25. The children would be most readily employed by the estates, but the parents have an aversion to agricultural pursuits.
26. They appear to take no interest in complexional distinction whatever.
27. I have not perceived the slightest desire on the part of the authorities or gentry of the country to interfere with the rights of freedom.
28. I have invariably informed them of the existence of this tribunal, and am confident they are fully aware of it.
29. I consider the present judicial system more conducive to the welfare of the labouring population, than that under the late Special Magistrates.
30. The labourers are fully aware of Courts of Reconciliation, and they cheerfully attend when summoned, always evincing great interest in the proceedings.
31. I have had many opportunities of bringing these tribunals into operation, and I am confident their permanent establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes.
32. The crops being not yet finished, I am not able to give a return as to the quantity of sugar made this season in my parish, for the labourers.
33. The labourers have a great aversion to give in their quantity of stock, but I can affirm that it is very great.
34. I have no apprehension of any want of provision for the present year.
35. The present crop now reaping is deplorable; the prospects of the ensuing crop are very good, the season being favourable.
36. The demand for luxuries of life, from the labouring population, has greatly increased, as far as regards dress, and quality of food.
37. I am of opinion that Savings' Banks and Friendly Societies would be highly beneficial to the labouring classes; but I think they would not be contributed to at present, their improvident habits being the chief cause.
38. In comparison with the labourers of the British dominions which I have visited, I think ours a far more happy peasantry.
39. I beg to suggest that a compilation of the laws be speedily concluded, as great inconvenience is felt by the magistracy in the discharge of their duties.

No. 2.—Parish of St. James.

1. The conduct of the labourers in this parish (on the whole), has been very good since my last quarterly report.
2. The majority of offences consists of assaults and batteries, with a few cases of debt and petty thefts.
3. There is at present a mutual good feeling subsisting between labourers and employers in this parish.
4. I am of opinion that the common interests of employers and labourers being inseparably connected, do not require the aid of external intervention for promoting a good understanding between the parties.
5. The labourers at the present time seem to perform their work willingly; the cause of the contrary event occasionally happening may generally be traced to the want of proper management on the property where it occurs.
6. The working hours are generally from 6 to 9 o'clock a.m., and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
7. Task work is not much resorted to; the objection lies with employers, who generally find the work (from being hurried) badly done.
8. The rate of wages varies at present from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6½d., and in the reaping season from 1s. 6½d. to 1s. 10½d. per diem.
9. The labourers are always, or at least in most cases, supplied with a house and a small piece of cultivable land.
10. I should presume from the fact of the labourer readily obtaining 1s. 6½d. per day when working abroad, and his only getting 1s. 3d. when working on the property on which his house and land are situated, that the occupation of the house and the privilege of planting the land attached to it, are meant (if not understood), as forming a set-off against the payment of the full daily value of the labourer's work, remarking at the same time, that the annual difference of the wages which I will suppose to be the rent, is a low price for the comfort which the labourer's house and land generally afford him.
11. The labourers in this parish are simply engaged to perform day labour, which engagement I should consider only binding for one day; but the knowledge that if they do not work steadily and continuously that they would not be allowed to occupy their houses on the property, generally induces them to remain settled on one estate.
12. The labourers are very averse to agreements of any sort.
13. They are most litigiously disposed, resorting to law on most frivolous grounds.
14. The new island law regulating the relations between masters and servants, has never to the present time been acted on in the parish; proprietors and managers finding the plans which they were forced to adopt on the disallowance of the former Act to succeed very well, deem it impolitic to run any risk of disturbing the good order and tranquillity which at present prevail, by making any alteration in their system of management. The Act for the suppression of vagrancy has also not been acted on, but cannot fail to operate as a protection to the industrious labourer.

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15. I have not been called on to investigate complaints of unlawful occupation of houses and lands by an ejection of labourers from the plantation on which they had been working.

16. A very sensible diminution in the number of agricultural labourers took place immediately after the termination of apprenticeship.

17. Great numbers, or nearly all the labourers, have returned to the estates which they left on the 1st August, 1838, or shortly after, and I consider that in general they are much attached to the places where they have been born and brought up.

18. Those persons who abandon agricultural labour, usually betake themselves to domestic employments, and some to carpenters, shoemakers, and tailors, &c.

19. I have only granted three certificates to persons desirous of emigrating from this parish; two of whom state that they wished to go on account of having near relations living in Demerara, and the third, a lad of rather bad character, who it was evident had been induced to go from many false allurements held out to him.

20. From my knowledge of the character and feelings of the Barbados peasantry, I consider their emigration to be the result of the gross deceptions practised by emigration agents and their emissaries, by holding out promises which they never realize, making engagements which they know are not valid, and representations of the correctness of which in their infant state of education it would be unnatural to suppose the Barbados labourers could form any idea.

21. The ages of three emigrants from this parish were, I should say, from 16 to 21, all of them males.

22. I am of opinion, that so far from there being a surplus of labouring population in this island, that no labourers could be spared without decided disadvantage.

23. The children of the labourers in this parish are entirely supported by their parents, and the greater part are brought up in great idleness.

24. My parish affords a large school, and plenty of accommodation in a church and chapel; the attendance at both is equal to, but does not exceed, the accommodation afforded.

25. The children could be most readily employed on every estate on which their parents are located; but the most decided aversion is evinced by them to train their children to agricultural pursuits.

26. Labourers appear to take little interest in the complexional difference between white, coloured, or black classes of inhabitants: as masters or employers, I should say they decidedly prefer the former.

27. So far from the authorities or gentry of the island wishing to interfere with the rights of freedom of the labouring population, or wishing virtually to retain them in a state of slavery, every opportunity is seized to point out to them their new improved and happy condition.

28. The labourers are fully aware of the existence of, and the advantages afforded them by, the Court of Appeal, and immediately after my decision in any case is made known, the right of appeal from it is fully explained.

29. I am of opinion, that the advantages afforded by the Court of Appeal, render the present judicial system more conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their "free condition," than that existing under the late special magistrates.

30. The labourers are gradually becoming aware of the institution of Courts of Reconciliation; in most cases they cheerfully attend when summoned as jurors, and evince much interest in the proceedings.

31. I have had many opportunities of bringing these tribunals into operation for the adjustment of differences, and am of opinion that their permanent establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes.

32. Answered by No. 29.

33. The question cannot now be answered correctly; it will receive my best attention in my next report.

34. Since my last report, the labourers in this parish have paid more attention to the raising of stock, but the exact quantity must also be delayed for my next report, as it will take a long time to ascertain it correctly.

35. There is no reason to dread a recurrence of the scarcity of provisions threatened in the early part of 1839.

36. The prospects of the ensuing crop are very cheering, the cultivation has been good, and the season favourable.

37. There has been since the abolition of apprenticeship, a greatly increased demand from the labouring population for the luxuries of life, such as wine, articles of dress, &c. &c.

38. Savings' Banks, and Friendly Societies, would no doubt be beneficial. One of the latter has been established by the Rector of this parish, and is well supported.

39. I was brought up in England, and have no hesitation in saying that the peasantry of Barbados, as at present circumstanced, is as happy as that of England, exclusive of the advantages afforded the former by the difference of climate.

40. The establishment of a lunatic asylum is much wanted.

(Signed)

FRANCIS THORNHILL, Police Magistrate.

No. 3.—*Parish of St. George.*

1. Irregular and altogether unsettled in their habits, owing to their misconception of the contract act, and the advantage taken by emigration agents to discontent the labourers, and distract the community, for the sole purpose of inducing the labourers to emigrate.

2. Same as last.

3. There is not a general good feeling between the labourers and their employers; and this I attribute to the arts and deceptions practised on the labourers, by emigration agents and their emissaries, who are dispersed throughout the country: and whose first object is to persuade the labourers into a belief, that their condition is one of unprofitable toil and misery in their own land, and then holding out golden promises in a land flowing with milk and honey, whereby they may reap a rich harvest at the expense and sacrifice of these poor deluded and unsuspecting people, who would otherwise be contented and happy in their native country, and whose situation in life cannot be improved by the change.

4. Same as last.

5. Not generally, owing to the spirit of emigration which at present pervades the land.
6. Same as last.
7. Same as last.
8. Same as last.
9. Same as last.
10. Same as last.
11. Same as last.
12. Same as last.
13. Same as last.
14. The renewal of the contract law has benefited the labouring population, inasmuch as it is operating exclusively to their advantage: the Act for the suppression of vagrancy is almost a dead letter.
15. Only in one case, which I had settled amicably.
16. Same as last.
17. The labourers may be considered at present itinerant; they are, however, generally speaking, attached to the estates on which they have been born and brought up, and would no doubt settle down and continue thereon quietly, were they left to themselves, and not interfered with by those interested and self-constituted emigration agents and their emissaries, who now infest our land.
18. Same as last, see former 19.
19. Not in this parish; that is, if I am to judge from the limited number of certificates granted to emigrants, and I have not refused a single applicant: the total do not exceed ten. I attribute this newly acquired propensity mainly to the insidious designs of emigration agents.
20. Certainly not spontaneous, they have been wheedled and enticed into a belief that emigration would be a *sine quâ non* to their comfort and happiness.
21. Between twenty and forty-nine males, and one female.
22. Same as last, see former 21.
23. Same as last, see former 22.
24. Same as last, see former 23.
25. Same as last, see former 24.
26. Same as last, see former 25.
27. Same as last, see former 26.
28. Same as last, see former 27.
29. Same as last, see former 28.
30. They are fully aware of the institution of Courts of Reconciliation in this island, and most cheerfully attend when summoned as jurors; they also evince a lively interest in the proceedings, and duly appreciate the benefits resulting to them from the establishment of those tribunals.
31. I have, and can bear, testimony of the good which has been already effected thereby. I am satisfied that the permanent establishment of these courts will be attended with incalculable benefit, not only to the working classes, but to the community in general.
32. See No. 29 preceding.
33. I believe very little as yet; I have however not been able to obtain returns thereof.
34. No returns obtained, I must therefore refer to my last, see former 30.
35. I have no doubt there is, and I have no apprehension of a recurrence of the scarcity threatened in the earlier part of 1839.
36. The prospects of the ensuing crop are cheering at present, the cultivation in general good, the season has been as yet most favourable.
37. Same as last, see former 33.
38. Same as last, see former 34.
39. Same as last, see former 35.
40. None.

(Signed) _____ THOMAS J. CUMMINS, Police Magistrate.

No. 4.—Parish of St. John.

1. The general conduct of the labourers of this parish since my last quarterly report, has been peaceable: but a speculative disposition seems to be obtaining among them, which has inclined them to less steady habits than heretofore.
2. Petty thefts, and assaults.
3. There is not so good a feeling existing between labourers and their employers as could be desired, and this I ascribe generally to the natural effect of the present immature state of the free system.
4. I am of opinion, that the common interest of employer and labourer will gradually tend in the altered condition of society to the establishment of a good understanding between these classes, without the aid of external intervention, which is productive of mutual distrust.
5. The labourers of this district are generally working willingly, but there are some few plantations which are exceptions; on these the labourers have derived erroneous notions respecting the late island act to regulate the hiring of servants, &c.; they are chiefly in the vicinity of St. Philip's parish.
6. The working hours are usually from sunrise to ten, and from eleven to four in the afternoon.
7. Task work is not now generally adopted in this district, the system having been in most instances abandoned in consequence of the negligent performance of the allotted task by the labourer.
8. The ordinary rate of wages is two bits per day, and during the reaping season, when an extra portion of work is required in each day, the increased pay is estimated at that ratio; the labourers are usually paid weekly in silver coin.
9. Labourers are generally supplied with lodging and a small spot of land for their cultivation, by the estate on which they are employed; continuous labour five days per week is usually required, for which daily labour they are paid, as stated in the foregoing answer, without any deduction being made for rent of house or land; but in cases where the labourers omit to give the five days' labour, a practice has obtained of deducting from their wages a certain quota for such blank days. There are some plantations on which a larger portion of land is allowed the labourers, for which they pay a stipulated labour rent.
10. Answered by the foregoing.

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11. In the hiring of agricultural labourers in this parish, it seems to be mutually understood that the relation of employer and labourer exists only from day to day.
12. The labourers seem to have an aversion to all contracts, especially written contracts.
13. The labouring population are litigiously disposed towards each other, and disunited in their interests.
14. The renewal of the island law, regulating the relations between masters and servants, and providing for the suppression of vagrancy, has operated very much to the relief of the labouring population, especially in securing to them, by law, the value of their crops on the lands they occupied, as incidental to service, and from which they may be dismissed; also in providing for the recovery and payment of their wages.
15. I have lately in a few instances been called upon to investigate complaints, on account of the undue occupation of houses by labourers, from plantations from which they had been dismissed; the fault has generally existed on the part of the labourer, who had entertained the belief that he could not be compelled by law to relinquish the occupancy of his lodging; but in every instance, the order of the magistrate has been sufficient to effect his quietly quitting the premises.
16. There has been a sensible diminution of the number of agricultural labourers, since 1st of August, 1838.
17. Many labourers have returned, who had left the estates on which they had been attached, on August 1838. They have been generally much attached to the plantations on which they have been brought up, but that feeling is gradually becoming less strong.
18. I apprehend that those persons who have abandoned agricultural labour, have usually betaken themselves to the town and its environs, where they are employed in all kinds of irregular work.
19. Emigration has not occurred to any considerable extent, in this parish, among the labourers; only fifteen have obtained certificates to enable them to quit (from the parish authorities) during the past quarter, and I apprehend that several of that number have relinquished their intention.
20. Of the fifteen persons of this parish who have obtained certificates to emigrate, the majority are composed of young men, artificers generally; and from the information I have been able to obtain, they have been induced, by promises of extraordinary wages, to leave this island for British Guiana, to enter into the service of specified individuals.
21. Answered by the foregoing.
22. I do not consider that there is a surplus population in this island, and I think that emigration would be attended with injury to this colony, it being so constituted as to preclude the use of machinery to any great extent.
23. The children of the labouring population are nearly in a state of idleness; from the inadequate intelligence existing among that class, they have subjected their children to most pernicious habits of life; and from their mistaken ideas of improvement, insist on their entire emancipation from field work. They place them at the various private schools that have obtained since the abolition of apprenticeship, where the imperfect system of discipline leaves the children without sufficient restraint and employment for the greater portion of the day; they are consequently growing up in habits of vagrancy, and imbibing the erroneous idea that field labour is derogatory to the improved condition of the Barbados peasantry. Those children who have arrived beyond the age of infancy are generally well clothed and fed by their parents. They are generally unprovided with regular medical attendance; many instances have occurred under my notice, where infants have been grossly neglected by their parents.
24. There are in this parish two good parochial schools, and a well conducted school on the Codrington Trust estates, where the children of labourers are indiscriminately admitted at a trifling cost; and a parish church, and three chapels open for the religious instruction of all classes. The accommodation afforded in the churches and schools of the parish is fully adequate to the wants of the population at present.
25. Children are very rarely employed on the estates on which they are located with their parents. This is solely to be attributed to a great disinclination on the part of the parents to train up their children to agricultural pursuits.
26. I believe that the labourers are fully alive to the complexional distinctions between the several classes of inhabitants.
27. There exists at present no interference or misapprehension on the part of the authorities or gentry of the country, concerning the rights of freedom acquired under the abolition of apprenticeship to the labouring population.
28. The labouring population are fully aware of the existence of the Assistant Court of Appeal.
29. The present judicial system, obtaining since the creation of that tribunal, is unquestionably best suited to the labouring population in their free condition.
30. I apprehend that the labourers are aware of the institution of Courts of Reconciliation; and I believe that their permanent establishment will be attended with great practical good to the labouring population. I have had many opportunities of bringing their differences for adjustment before these tribunals, and have always found that it created the greatest interest among them. It only requires the operation of the late act to render its adoption general.
31. Answered by the foregoing.
32. Answered by the 29th.
33. The present season has not sufficiently advanced, to ascertain the amount of the labourers' crops.
34. I have every reason to believe that the quantity of stock possessed by the labourers of the parish has rather increased than otherwise, since my last report.
35. There has been a general reduction in the quantity of ground provisions, corn, &c., reared on estates, but the quantity of provisions imported into the island, will, I think, now preclude the probability of a recurrence of a scarcity from the same cause as existed in 1839.
36. The sugar crop is now in progress of reaping, and is far short of an average crop; the ensuing sugar crop, however, although at present in its earliest stage of culture, is prosperous; the general state of cultivation is good.
37. I am of opinion that there is at the present time a generally increased demand for the luxuries of life, such as articles of dress, wines, &c., amongst the working classes.
38. Friendly Societies have existed in this parish for many years, attended with very great benefit to the labouring classes. Savings' Banks would be highly beneficial also, but I think would not be contributed to by them until they have become further advanced in their social condition.

39. On comparing their situation with that of the labouring classes in other portions of the British dominions, I do consider the labourers of Barbados the most prosperous.

40. I would here recommend as a measure of practical advantage to the community in general, that a right and title to all fixtures erected by labourers on lands in their occupancy as incident to service, be secured to them by legal enactment; as calculated to improve confidence between labourer and employer, and to encourage settled and domestic habits amongst the labourers.

(Signed)

HENRY PILGRIM, Police Magistrate.

No. 5.—*Parish of Christ Church.*

1. The misunderstanding which arose between some of the labourers and their employers, on certain of the estates in this parish, shortly after my last quarterly report (and which led to the appointment, by his Excellency the Governor, of Commissioners to inquire into the causes thereof), has happily subsided, and in general the labourers are well disposed.

2. Petty thefts, and breaches of the peace.

3. There is no want of good feeling on the part of the employers towards their labourers; the good feeling, however, of the latter towards the former has, since my last report, altered for the worse; which is, I think, to be attributed to the exciting efforts of the *Liberal* newspaper, in representing their employers as their oppressors, and to the interested exertions of emigration agents, in unsettling their minds by the delusive prospects of bettering their condition elsewhere.

4. Until a complete check can be put to the system pursued by private emigration agents, whose sole object is gain, regardless alike of the injury they may inflict on the colony, and of the misery to which they may consign the dupes and victims of their avarice, and until the mischievous press to which I have alluded, shall cease to goad the labourers into the belief that they are oppressed and wronged by their employers, it is doubtful that the former generally will feel satisfied with their condition. Any external intervention, however, seems unnecessary, with the view to the establishment of a good understanding between the two classes, as it is to be hoped that time, aided by the due consideration of their common interests, and the reciprocal obligations they owe to each other, will produce happy results.

5. My impression on this head of inquiry remains the same as in my last quarterly report.

6. No alteration in this particular since last report.

7. Task work, not answering the expectations of employers, is almost abandoned by them.

8. No alteration since my last report.

9. No alteration since my last report.

10. No alteration since my last report.

11. No alteration since my last report.

12. No alteration since my last report.

13. No alteration since my last report.

14. The renewal of the island laws regulating the relations of masters and servants, cannot fail to operate in favour of the latter, in protecting them against summary ejections; but as regards the former, from the decided objection which the labourers have to contracts for service, it gives them no assurance of a supply of labour, when wanted, from those domiciled on their properties.

15. I have been called upon to eject, and have in some cases ejected labourers from the undue occupation of plantation cottages, and on these occasions I have always found that the fault is with the labourer.

16. No serious diminution generally. On some estates the labourers have withdrawn themselves, and commenced farming on their own accounts, upon rented spots of land; I do not approve of this small farming system, particularly in those parishes subject to frequent droughts; I think the labourers would find it more to their advantage to attach themselves to properties on which cultivation could be so carried on as in some degree to counteract the effects of long droughts, and consequent scarcity of food.

17. In some cases, labourers who had left the properties to which they belonged, have returned and again located themselves there.

18. To domestic service, trades, and huckstering.

19. Since my last report no application has been made to me for emigration certificates, but I have heard of some certificates having been granted by other magistrates of this parish. From my knowledge of the negro character, and his strong attachment to the place of his birth, I feel assured that it must require very artful persuasions and alluring temptations to induce him to quit his native soil.

20. In following up the foregoing answer, I should say that their emigration has certainly not been spontaneous.

21. Not having granted any certificates of emigration, I cannot of myself answer this question; but on a reference to the churchwardens, I learn that they are chiefly adult males.

22. I do not think we have a surplus population.

23. Parents appear more anxious about the welfare of their children in training them to habits of industry, and their aversion to agricultural pursuits has greatly abated.

24. In this parish we have a church, four chapels, and seven public schools in operation, and a chapel on a very large scale in course of erection in the most populous district of the parish. The accommodation which these buildings afford is greater than the attendance of persons at them.

25. Children are readily employed for hire when the parents do not object, and I am happy to say their indisposition to train them to agricultural pursuits is by no means so great as it was.

26. The labourers do take an interest in complexional distinctions, and their preference as to confidence in the respective classes is in favour of the whites.

27. Certainly not.

28. They are.

29. The present judicial system, conducted as it is under the supervision of this tribunal, is more conducive to the welfare of the labouring population than that which prevailed during the general employment of the late special magistrates.

30. The institution of Courts of Reconciliation is fully known to the labourers, who readily attend when summoned as jurors, and they seem to take an interest in the proceedings.

31. By means of these tribunals, I have been successful on all occasions in reconciling differences, and I have no doubt the permanent establishment of them will be beneficial to the working classes.

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32. See answer 29.

33. This cannot be fully answered at present, the crop being now in course of reaping.

34. It is extremely difficult to collect satisfactory information on this head, owing to the reluctance of parties to aid the inquiry, from the idea that it is done for the purpose of taxation.

35. Provisions are plentiful, and there is no reason to apprehend a scarcity of food.

36. The prospects of the ensuing crop are very cheering, owing to the early and favourable season of the year.

37. There has been a greatly increased demand on the part of the labourers for the luxuries of life, since freedom.

38. Savings' Banks and Friendly Societies must prove beneficial to the labouring classes; the latter, which are established to some extent, have worked well in improving their conduct and morals, and as they readily contribute to them, and feel a pride in becoming members, I have no doubt they would lend their support to promote Savings' Banks, as the surest means of securing their surplus savings.

39. I think they may be regarded as the happiest peasantry in the world.

40. The experience I have had since my last report, leads me again to remark that we are greatly in want of summary relief in cases of minor trespasses, detinue trover, and I may add slander: enactments on these heads are much to be desired, particularly in reference to the speedy redress they would afford to the poorer classes, who have not the means of carrying their grievances through the ordinary Courts.

(Signed) JOSEPH P. EVELYN, Police Magistrate.

No. 6.—*Parish of St. Peter.*

The Report from the Police Magistrate for the Parish of St. Peter, is absent, owing to the decease of J. T. Corbin, Esq. at that period.

JOSEPH GARRAWAY, Acting Private Secretary.

No. 7.—*Parish of St. Thomas.*

I have the honour to state, that I see no reason to alter or add to my former reports on this subject, from No. 1 to 18. To Nos. 19, 20, and 21, I am very happy in being able to say that only one person has emigrated from my district, and he was no loss, being a man of very roving disposition, and as I have since been informed, soon fell a victim to the climate of Demerara. I have been unwearied in my exertions in watching over the emigration agents, as I am certain that they are most insidious and dangerous enemies to the labouring population, holding out to them such inducements as are apt to lead away persons of some knowledge; and how much easier is it to make an impression on the ignorant minds of the labourers, many of whom have never travelled further from the estate or place of his or her domicile than to town or market. Most sincerely do I hope that the time is not far distant when our valuable island will get rid of the emigration agents, as they, in conjunction with a portion of our public press, are at this time the only bar to its peace, contentment, and happiness.

30 and 31. I believe I was one of the first magistrates who formed Courts of Reconciliation, the successful and happy effects of which have been already reported to his Excellency.

It gives me also pleasure to observe their thirst after knowledge, for so anxious and pleased are they to serve as jurors, that they frequently volunteer their services in that capacity. I have had many opportunities of bringing these tribunals into operation for the adjustment of their differences; and so well am I convinced that their permanent establishment will be attended with advantage to the labouring population, that I hold a Court of Reconciliation on every Saturday, and am happy to say that the conduct of the jurors has hitherto met my entire approval.

33. The sugar crop in my district is not more than half reaped; I cannot therefore say what quantity of sugar is likely to be made this year for the labourers, but will report fully on this subject in my next return.

34. I think I may venture to say that the labourers have as many head of stock now in their possession as they had last year, if not more.

35. It is most pleasing to observe that the planters have returned to their old system of planting plenty of provisions of all kinds; and should the present good weather continue, I think we shall have no cause to apprehend any scarcity for the next year.

36. This month has commenced most favourably for the ensuing sugar crop; and should it please the Lord to continue the showers, a plenteous crop may reasonably be anticipated for next year, the cultivation through the whole of this district being excellent.

40. The labourers in my district, and I believe generally, suffer much from the tantalizing conduct of tailors, who often retain for a considerable time the cloth given them to make articles of apparel, and in many cases defraud the owner of the cloth itself; I therefore most respectfully beg leave to recommend the passing of a law to remedy this evil.

(Signed) J. CAREW, Police Magistrate.

No. 8.—*Parish of St. Joseph.*

I have the honour to state that my replies to the quarterly questions on the working of the free system, scarcely differ in a single point from those given before.

14. The renewal of the island laws has not yet been felt among us, though I anticipate the same resistance to the new contract act that has been absurdly exhibited in some other parishes.

19. Only two or three instances of emigration have as yet occurred, and I will still hope that the excitement in other parishes may not reach this.

(Signed) W. S. AUSTIN, Police Magistrate.

No. 9.—*Parish of St. Lucy.*

1. Rather worse than for some time previous, they are very indolent and disorderly, and much disposed to vice.

2. Assault and battery, theft, debt, and injury to property.

3. The feeling generally is good, except when interrupted by seditious publications.

4. I believe the interest of employer and labourer would be established, if there were no external intervention.
5. They do not perform their work as willingly as last reported by me, and I ascribe it to their having listened too readily to mischievous advisers.
6. Nine hours per diem out of crop time, performed when most convenient to the labourers, and during the crop, extra payment for any work done over nine hours.
7. Task work is now generally preferred, both by employers and labourers.
8. Two bits each per day, and in reaping season a half-bit additional per hogshead, to all employed about the mill and boiling house, as an equivalent for time spent beyond nine hours in the manufacture of sugar.
9. The labourers are generally supplied with lodgings, and the great majority of them have comfortable houses gratuitously; they have also on most estates a quarter of an acre of cultivable land each, and no charge made for rent of it.
10. When the labourers bestow their labour on other estates than those on which they have houses and land, they are generally charged from half-bit to one bit for each day's absence, but not otherwise.
11. No contracts for work have ever been made; in giving task work the employers and labourers are generally guided by the scale of labour established at the commencement of the apprenticeship.
12. They have an objection to be restrained by any agreement, either verbal or written.
13. Very litigiously disposed.
14. Has not yet produced the desired effect, no contract being entered into, and a spirit of vagrancy seeming to influence the labouring class.
15. In no case since my last report.
16. A diminution has taken place, and particularly latterly, which I think is daily increasing, as appears to me, from the several inducements held out to them to emigrate to British Guiana, from the many certificates applied for for that purpose.
17. A great many did return, but they are very unsettled; they do not appear to evince much attachment to the estates on which they have been born and brought up, and I attribute this apparent change in their sentiments to their willingness to listen to the deceptions practised upon them by artful and designing persons.
18. Hawking and peddling, infesting the towns, and passing themselves off as domestics.
19. Twelve persons have obtained certificates of emigration from this parish, attributable to the causes hereinbefore adverted to in reply to question No. 16.
20. I certainly conceive that their emigration has not been spontaneous, and that they have been urged to it by the publications in that mischievous publication, the *Liberal*, and the machinations of a Mr. Thomas Day, of British Guiana.
21. Seven males and five females have obtained certificates for emigration, generally adults and able-bodied persons.
22. I am of opinion that agricultural labourers cannot be spared.
23. Their condition is good, they are supported by their parents, but mostly out of the means of the estate on which they live.
24. The parish only supplies one large school room; there are numerous private schools, where education may be acquired very cheaply. The attendance at church and in the schools is equal to the accommodation.
25. Very few capable of doing any thing are allowed by their parents to remain on any estate during the day; the parents have a decided objection to training them to agricultural pursuits, and they are generally apprenticed to trades, going to school, or wasting their time in idleness.
26. None.
27. None.
28. They are fully aware of it.
29. Happier under this tribunal, being less restrained than during the apprenticeship.
30. They are fully aware of it, and attend very readily, and seem to take great interest in it.
31. I have had weekly and continued opportunities for several months past, and I think that their permanent establishment will be attended with the most beneficial results to the working classes.
32. The present system I conceive most conducive to their happiness and welfare.
33. It is too early in the season to ascertain these facts, as the labourers' sugar has not yet been reaped.
34. On all estates they keep sheep, pigs, goats, and poultry, to a great extent, and on some they possess horned cattle.
35. Ground provisions, corn, &c., have been planted largely, but owing to unfavourable weather, a short crop has been reaped; should anything occur to prevent the supply of foreign provisions, much want is to be apprehended.
36. The sugar crop now in progress of reaping is as short as has ever been known; the young crop for the ensuing year is at present very promising; the season has been very unfavourable for the present crop.
37. There has been, especially for articles of dress.
38. I do not think that Savings' Banks or Friendly Societies would be contributed to by the labourers, as I believe they spend their money as fast as earned.
39. In comparing their situation with that of the peasantry of England, and particularly that of Ireland, as it has come under my observation, I consider the labourers of Barbados a very happy peasantry as at present circumstanced.
40. I think that a trespass act being in force in this island, would be very beneficial to the community in general.

(Signed)

A. H. MORRIS, Police Magistrate.

No. 10.—*Parish of St. Andrew.*

1. They have done no violence to their superiors, but are much addicted to disputation and consequent litigation with each other; they are in general civil, except to those with whom they are located; they are more industrious than in the first year of their freedom, but are nevertheless irregular in their attendance at work, and require constant inspection to the execution and amount of the quantity which they should perform.

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2. Theft, injury to property, assaults, and battery, chiefly against each other, and debt.
3. I do not think there is any want of good feeling between the employers and labourers, and yet it must be admitted that their relations with each other are interrupted and disorganized by very trifling causes.
4. I do; when their present relations are more extended, they must attain the conviction that each is necessary to the other.
5. I cannot say that they do, and they are very much disposed to execute it imperfectly and slovenly, although some creditable exceptions to this representation exist. I cannot assign a cause, as none has ever been communicated to me.
6. During the crop season the nine hours' labour demanded for a day, is usually taken in three spells of three hours each, one hour for breakfast, and two for dinner being allowed; in the present year a disinclination to render nine hours' labour has been exhibited.
7. Task work is less resorted to than formerly, from the imperfect and slovenly manner in which it was executed by the labourers.
8. The field or agricultural labourers are usually paid by the week, at two bits per day for first class; one and a half bit for second class; superintendents, watchmen, stock-keepers, &c., are generally paid per month.
9. They may generally be said to be so supplied; by far the greater number of their houses are very comfortable, and have been rendered so at considerable outlay to the proprietors. They are generally granted a plot of land gratuitously; but with a view to retaining them steadily to their work in the absence of some other resource, when they leave without giving previous notice, a bit a day is demanded for rent.
10. I am of opinion that the grant of a house and garden was primarily intended by the proprietors of this island, as an inducement to labour continuously for the grantor, and should I think supersede legal influence by contract, to which the labourers generally have an insurmountable objection. Rents for the cottage and land have been adopted by the greater number of proprietors, who demand it as a protection against the wandering propensity of the labourer; it is a fruitful source of misunderstanding, for although the labourer will avoid his engagement, he feels great objection to making the amend by the payment of rent.
11. The higher class of labourers, as superintendents, stock-keepers, watchmen, and domestics, are usually employed at a given rate of wages per month, which would seem to imply a continuous engagement for such a period. The field labourer's engagement is generally confined to a day; they entertain an insurmountable objection to specific agreements of any description, and no document for such a purpose has ever been lodged in my office.
12. They are averse to any agreement.
13. Quarrelsome and litigious, although I would not say revengeful.
14. It has; although they have adopted the avoidance of contracts, they are protected from summary ejectment by law; no complaint against a vagrant has ever been submitted to me.
15. I have not had occasion to act on any such complaint.
16. I think there has, and if the pernicious influence of emigration agents is not superseded, the agitation which they create will eventually lead to the alienation of numbers of people who have hitherto lived together in peace and contentment.
17. Although some have returned, others have subsequently quitted, and this state of vacillation and uncertainty is the source of much embarrassment and loss to the proprietors; yet I do think they are in general attached to the estates on which they have been born and brought up.
18. They adopt such a variety of occupation that it would be difficult to attach them to any.
19. Only four persons have received certificates for emigration during the past quarter at this office, one of them has since informed me that he does not intend to quit, and I am not certain that the other three have done so; all three persons were out of place at the time of their application, and three of them had been wandering from an early period after their emancipation. The mass of the population of this parish appear indisposed to emigrate—a few may adopt it from curiosity, and are strongly influenced by the pledge which has been held out to them of being enabled to return if they dislike the change. I think the season of irritation has been taken undue advantage of by the emigration agents, to exact and obtain their pledges of making this singular experiment.
20. This question has been answered in the foregoing reply.
21. Two men and two lads, no female has applied to the present time.
22. I am not of opinion that there is any surplus of agricultural labourers; there are plenty of idlers to be seen almost everywhere.
23. They are supported by their parents; some are sent to school, some are apprenticed to trades, some are hired by their parents to other labourers as drudges, but by far the greater number of those fit for employment live in idleness.
24. There is a school of the Established Church and a Wesleyan school, the parish church and a small chapel of the established Church of England, and also a Wesleyan chapel; the attendance at each of these places is, I believe, fully equal to the accommodation.
25. I am not aware that any are refused employment; and, on the contrary, that much entreaty and considerable inducements have been tendered to the parents as well as the children, to induce them to become useful, but they continue to resist all inducement; and adults are obliged to be employed in the care of stock and other duties, for which labourers of less value would be equally available.
26. I do not think so.
27. I have never witnessed any such desire.
28. They are fully aware of it.
29. I think the utility of the Assistant Court of Appeal is duly appreciated by every intelligent member of this community, and is the most appreciable to the labouring classes.
30. They are generally aware of it. I have always obtained their ready and willing attendance as jurors, and they evince a patient attention to its objects, and much interest in the proceedings.
31. They are frequently resorted to, by me, as a most desirable agency in the discharge of my duties; the decision has not been objected against in any instance, and I have witnessed many times the practical benefit of self-conviction, and immediate reconciliation, where I could not have attained any similar advantage by the ordinary administration of the law.
32. Replied to in answer 29.
33. I have not been able to obtain any information on this subject.
34. I have not been able to obtain any information on this subject.
35. I should hope so.

36. The season has not, I conceive, been a very favourable one, the general state of cultivation in this parish has considerably improved, and the crop of young canes very promising at present.

37. There has been a considerably increased demand, and they seem to have acquired ample means for the indulgence.

38. Of Savings' Banks I cannot express any other opinion, except that I do not think that the labourers would be forward in offering deposits in them. Friendly Societies I think more to their immediate wishes and wants. The recorder of St. Andrew's parish has organized such a society, and I think the labourers have been benefited by it, although the moral restraints which it imposes has occasioned some to secede who joined; and with the clergy of the parish I think it is most likely to extend its benefit.

39. I have had no opportunity of making a comparison, but as I have ample opportunity of estimating the resources they possess, if they are not happy, I think they have only themselves to blame.

40. I decline to offer any suggestion at present.

(Signed)

JAMES S. BASCOM, Police Magistrate.

No. 12.—*Parish of St. Michael, Bridgetown.*

1. Generally speaking quiet and orderly with few exceptions, but much inclined to idleness.

2. Of petty thefts, and assaults and batteries.

3. There is a great distrust of their employers, attributable to the inflammatory and highly injudicious remarks of an island journal, and particularly so in the delusive hopes held out to them for bettering their condition by emigration.

4. We should sincerely deprecate any external intervention, as we conceive, if left to itself, the common interest will produce a general good understanding between parties so connected as labourer and employer.

5. We should say rather more willingly than at the time we made our last return, and it is to be hoped it will continue so, if their minds are not allured by the deceit of emigration agents.

6. From 7 to 10, and from 11 to 4.

7. There is a great deal of task work accomplished in this parish, but when objections are made they are generally on the part of the labourer, who is not frequently inclined to perform any quantity of work.

8. Two bits per diem, and an increase of about one-third more during the manufacturing of sugar, when they are frequently employed beyond the usual time, as stated in answer to the 6th query: in all such cases, liberal payment and allowances are made for the extra time.

9. They are so, as long as they continue to work on the estates on which they are located, and that gratis; in some cases, an extra portion of land is hired them, at the rate of from seven to ten pounds per acre.

10. The occupation of the house and privilege of planting and reaping the fruits of the land, is generally held out to them as a bonus for continued labour five days in the week, on their location; but it usually forms no part of the payment of their daily labour.

11. The labourer is entirely averse to written agreements and seldom or never makes any. He usually engages verbally, but for no specified time, and can quit whenever he pleases. Of course no records have been lodged in our office.

12. Answered by the preceding.

13. They have but little confidence in each other, and are most litigiously inclined; they fly to the law to remedy fancied as well as real grievances.

14. These acts have been lately remodelled; we cannot but trust that the law regulating the relations between masters and servants will be highly beneficial to both parties. No case under the vagrant act came before us.

15. No case of this nature has come before us since our last answers.

16. In reply to this question last year we answered in the negative, but such hopes are now falsely (we believe) held out to the labourer by well paid and interested speculators and agents, and he is so assured that he will better his condition, that we are afraid that a sensible diminution is taking place.

17. In many instances they have returned to the properties they removed from. It is only the aged and infirm, and fathers and mothers of large families, who seem attached to the soil they have been bred and born on.

18. Huckstering and petty trading, and as porters, and employment on board of ships in stowing away sugars, &c., where they get ample payment.

19. Not many agricultural labourers, but many others; we cannot state the numbers. The labourers' novel propensity for emigration appears to arise from the specious acts of unprincipled persons, terming themselves emigration agents, who hold out boons to them, we fear never to be realized.

20. We cannot think the emigration of the labourers to be generally spontaneous, but chiefly arising from the mercenary wiles of adventurers.

21. Few children have left, except those with their parents (who have gone to a healthier climate than British Guiana), to enter into domestic service; the adults are generally of a middle age, and we should say that the males preponderate.

22. We do not think any portion of our agricultural labourers could be spared from the island generally; there is certainly a redundant population in Bridgetown, many of whom could be well spared.

23. Very bad indeed, their parents usually supply their wants and bring them up in idleness and bad habits; a great increase in the number of juvenile offenders has taken place since last year.

24. There are six chapels or licensed places for public worship in this parish, besides St. Michael's Cathedral; they altogether will contain about 6,000 persons; they are scarcely or ever full, therefore we should say there is accommodation. There are eleven public schools well attended, besides many private ones; and these are increasing from the indefatigable zeal and pious endeavours of the lord bishop and his clergy, and all in authority, to facilitate moral and religious instruction, and to extend the benefit of education.

25. They would most readily be employed on hire by the owners and managers of estates, but the parents are particularly averse to bring their children up to agricultural labour, or in fact to any proper pursuit; they generally keep them at home for their own purposes.

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26. They appear to repose more confidence in the white population (with some few exceptions), and generally, in all cases of litigation, prefer to be tried by them.

27. The very reverse is the case; we conceive the authorities and gentry are doing all in their power both by precept and example, to elevate the newly emancipated in the scale of society; and that no individual of education or respectability would even wish a state of slavery prolonged.

28. Universally so, and we give them most particular information on the subject, and afford them every facility to appeal from our decisions.

29. Most unquestionably preferable under this valuable court, who sit publicly in Bridgetown, under the immediate eye of the Executive, and who execute their duties zealously for the public weal, and most scrupulously to the welfare of the labourers; and this opinion is abundantly confirmed by the conduct of the court since this query was answered last year.

30. This question can be more fully answered by the police magistrates of the rural districts; in all cases of minor assaults, we try to reconcile the parties, and frequently succeed.

31. Answered by the last.

32. Most unquestionably preferable under this valuable court, who sit publicly in Bridgetown, under the immediate eye of the Executive, and who execute their duties zealously for the public weal, and most scrupulously to the welfare of the labourers, and this opinion is abundantly confirmed by the conduct of the court since this query was answered last year.

33. We have been unable to ascertain this point satisfactorily. We know that a great deal of sugar has generally been made from the lands in possession of the labourers, most of such lands being planted in canes and making a good return.

34. This cannot be ascertained, the planters generally taking no interest in the questions asked of them. We, however, know from our own experience, that the market is generally supplied with poultry and pork from the labourers.

35. We believe there is; both the planter and labourer have seen the fallacy of confining themselves to the cultivation of the staple commodity alone, and although a great drought has prevailed, yet a large quantity of ground provisions has been planted.

36. From planters of experience we are happy to hear that the prospects of the ensuing crop are exceedingly good; the season has been most favourable for the last few months.

37. There has been, but more particularly in the articles of dress.

38. We think they would be beneficial, but the labourer is so unreflecting, and so little inclined to consider for to-morrow, that we believe few, if any, would subscribe to such an institution, or be made to understand its benefits.

39. Unquestionably, and beyond a doubt more happy than the peasantry of Ireland; and taking climate into consideration, better off than that class of persons in England. As soon as the diffusion of religious knowledge takes place, and they better understand their moral obligations, the peasantry will be as happy and contented as anywhere else.

40. None. If the labourer is left to himself, and not taught to consider his situation bad, by selfish and interested parties ignorant of our localities, asperities will soften down, and things generally merge into a proper understanding; and we should respectfully and humbly express a wish, that those good laws passed for the general good, by the local legislature, in the true spirit of justice and equity to all parties, may be allowed to take effect, particularly the vagrant act, and that for regulating the relation between masters and servants.

(Signed) R. HENDY, } Police Magistrates.
C. GILL, }

QUESTIONS for QUARTERLY REPLY from the Police Magistracy of the Island of BARBADOS.

Between 1st April and 30th June, 1840.

1. What has been the general conduct of the labourers in the parish under your magisterial jurisdiction, since your last quarterly report?

2. Of what particular description of offences do the majority of the cases brought before you, consist?

3. Is there any want of good feeling between the labourers and their employers; and if so, to what cause do you attribute it?

4. Are you of opinion that the common interests of the employers and labourers will gradually tend, in the altered condition of colonial society, to the establishment of a good understanding between those classes, without the aid of external intervention?

5. Do the labourers perform their work willingly; and if not, to what cause do you ascribe it?

6. What are the working hours generally in use in your parish?

7. Is task work generally resorted to in your parish? if not, does the objection lie with the masters or the labourers?

8. What is the ordinary rate of wages, and how are the labourers paid in the reaping season, as well as in other months?

9. Are the labourers generally supplied with lodging and a spot of cultivable land upon the estates on which they may engage to work? if so, upon what terms?

10. Is the occupation of the house, and the privilege of planting the piece of ground attached to it, mutually understood as forming a set-off against the payment of the full daily value of the labourer's work; or is the rent of the house and land a distinct charge, having no reference to the estate duty performed by the labourer?

11. What is the general practice pursued in your parish in hiring labourers? are they engaged simply to perform day labour, which engagement is only binding for one day? or do they usually enter into verbal or written agreements for any specified term—say weekly, monthly, or yearly; and if so, are any records of that nature lodged in your office?

12. Are the labourers disposed generally to prefer written to verbal agreements?

13. Are the labourers, in their general intercourse with each other, upon a happy footing, or otherwise disposed?

- houses or lands by labourers, from the plantations on which they have been working—if so, where does the fault generally exist; in the employers, the labourers, or both?
16. Are you of opinion that any sensible diminution in the number of agricultural labourers in your parish has taken place since the 1st August, 1838?
17. Have many labourers returned to work on properties from which they removed on the 1st of August, 1838, or subsequently; and do you consider the labourers in general attached to the estate on which they have been born and brought up?
18. To what kind of employment do those persons who have abandoned agricultural labour, usually betake themselves?
19. Has emigration to any considerable extent occurred among the labourers of your parish; if so, specify the number, and state to what cause you are disposed to attribute this novel propensity on their part?
20. From your knowledge of the character and feelings of the Barbados peasantry, do you conclude that their emigration has been spontaneous, or otherwise?
21. What are the ages, generally speaking, of the emigrants from your parish; and of which of the three classes of males, females, and children, have the majority of emigrants consisted?
22. Are you of opinion there is a surplus population in this island, and that a large proportion of labourers might be spared without disadvantage, for the benefit of colonies where labour is comparatively scarce?
23. What is the condition of the children of the labourers, and how are they supported?
24. What facilities does your parish supply for education and religious instruction? Is the attendance at church and in the schools equal to the accommodation?
25. Are the children readily employed for hire by the estates on which the parents are located; if not, is this attributable to the disinclination of the employers to hire the services of the children, or to any indisposition on the part of the parents to train them to agricultural pursuits?
26. Do the labourers appear to take any interest in the complexional distinction between the white, coloured, or black classes of inhabitants?
27. Have you perceived any desire on the part of the authorities or gentry of the country to interfere with the rights of freedom, acquired under the abolition of apprenticeship by the labouring population, or virtually to retain them in a prolonged state of slavery?
28. Are the labourers fully aware of the existence of the Assistant Court of Appeal?
29. Whether do you consider the judicial system obtaining since the creation of that tribunal, or that prevailing during the general employment of the late Special Magistrates, most conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition?
30. Are the labourers fully aware of the institution of Courts of Reconciliation in this island; if so, do they cheerfully attend when summoned as jurors, and do they evince an interest in the proceedings?
31. Have you had many opportunities of bringing those tribunals into operation for the adjustment of their differences; and are you of opinion that their permanent establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes?
32. Whether do you consider the judicial system obtaining since the creation of the Court of Appeal, or that prevailing during the general employment of the late Special Magistrates, most conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition?
33. What quantity of sugar has been made this season in your parish, by proprietors, for the labourers attached thereto, and what amount of money has the same realized?
34. What quantity of stock are the labourers upon the estates in your parish now possessed of?
35. Is such a quantity of ground provisions, corn, &c. now planted, as will, in your opinion, preclude the possibility of a recurrence of the scarcity threatened in the earlier part of 1839?
36. What are the prospects of the ensuing crop, and what the general state of cultivation? Has the season been favourable or otherwise?
37. Are you aware that there has been, since the abolition of apprenticeship, a greatly increased demand from the labouring population for the luxuries of life, such as wine, articles of dress, &c. &c.?
38. Are you of opinion that Savings' Banks and Friendly Societies would be beneficial to the labouring classes, and be contributed to by them; if so, by what means do you conceive that such institutions may be best promoted?
39. On comparing their situation with that of the labouring classes in other portions of the British dominions, do you consider the labourers of Barbados a happy peasantry as at present circumstanced?
40. Have you any suggestions to make, or any practical measures to recommend, for the benefit of the labouring population in particular, or of this community in general?

ANSWERS.

No. 1.—*Parish of St. Philip.*

1. Peaceable as a body, and much more regular in their labour since my last quarterly report.
2. Assaults and batteries, and petty thefts.
3. There is a much better understanding between the labourers and their employers since my last quarterly report.
4. Time alone will tend, in the altered condition of colonial society, to establish a good understanding between all classes, and decidedly much sooner without the aid of external intervention.
5. Where proper regularity in payment of wages is strictly attended to, no stoppage of wages for any trifling deficiency of work performed, the labourers work willingly.
6. From 6 a.m. to 1 p.m., giving two hours for dining and one for breakfast, at nine hours per day; but on some estates task work is still continued.
7. Task work is not now so generally adopted in my district, as the planters complain of the work being slovenly performed.
8. The rate of wages on estates where the labourers are domiciled, is 1s. 3d. per diem, and during the reaping season, 3½d. extra.
9. The house and one-eighth of an acre are generally, in my district, given gratis, but when they have more land they pay for it.
10. On some estates they exact from the labourers, when absent, one bit per week for their house; but otherwise the house and land have no reference to the estate duty performed by the labourer.

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11. Where the labourers are domiciled, they are expected to work five days per week, and are paid weekly. There have been no records of this nature lodged in my office as to agreements for any specified term.
12. The labourers seem to have a great aversion to written or verbal agreements.
13. Most litigiously disposed.
14. The renewal of these two acts, in my opinion, has operated to the relief of the labouring population, but more particularly to the former, as the labourer is no longer subject to summary ejectment.
15. I have not been called upon to investigate complaints on account of the undue occupation of houses, but when ejectments have been made by overseers, I have invariably had the full value of their growing crop on their allotments paid for.
16. Several hundreds have emigrated within the last few months, but it seems now that it has almost totally ceased.
17. The labourers generally, I believe, have returned to the properties from which they removed on the 1st of August, and I consider they are attached to the estates on which they have been born and brought up.
18. To trade and huckstering.
19. I have not been able yet to obtain the aggregate amount from the churchwarden of the parish.
20. Certainly not, but by the persuasion of one Thomas Day, and other emigration agents.
21. Of all ages and sexes.
22. I am of opinion that we have no surplus population in the island as to agricultural labourers, and that none can be spared without great disadvantage.
23. The children are supported entirely by their parents; their condition is any thing but good, as they are brought up in a state of idleness.
24. We have three parochial schools, and four or five others; the attendance at church is fully equal to the accommodation.
25. The children would be most readily employed by the estates, but the parents have an aversion to bring them up to agricultural pursuits.
26. They appear to take no interest in complexional distinction whatever.
27. I have not perceived the slightest desire on the part of the authorities or gentry of the country to interfere with the rights of freedom.
28. I have invariably informed them of the existence of this tribunal, and am confident they are fully aware of it.
29. I consider the present judicial system more conducive to the welfare of the labouring population than that under the late Special Magistrates.
30. The labourers are fully aware of Courts of Reconciliation, and they cheerfully attend when summoned as jurors, always evincing great interest in the proceedings.
31. I have had many opportunities of bringing those tribunals into operation, and I am confident their permanent establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes.
32. I have endeavoured to obtain an answer to this query, but have failed, the overseers having great objections to these returns.
33. The labourers have a great aversion to give in their quantity of stock, but I can affirm that it is very great.
34. I have no apprehension of any want of provision for the present year.
35. The prospects of the ensuing crop are fair, cultivation I think has much improved, but the season has been unfavourable.
36. The demand for the luxuries of life, from the labouring population, has greatly increased, as far as regards dress and quality of food.
37. I am of opinion that Savings' Banks and Friendly Societies would be highly beneficial to the labouring population, but I think they would not be contributed to at present,—their improvident habits, as acquired during slavery and apprenticeship, being the cause. There is one Friendly Society in this parish, established by and under the superintendence of the clergy, by whom I think they will be best promoted.
38. Comparing their situation with that of the labouring classes of other portions of the British dominions, I do consider the labourers of Barbados the most prosperous peasantry as at present circumstanced.
39. I beg to suggest that a compilation of the laws be speedily concluded, as great inconvenience is felt by the magistracy in the discharge of their duties.

(Signed)

P. L. APPLEWHITE, Police Magistrate.

No. 2.—*Parish of St. James.*

1. The conduct of the labourers in this parish (on the whole) has been very good since my last quarterly report.
2. The majority of offences consists of assaults and batteries, with a few cases of debt and petty thefts.
3. There is at present a mutual good feeling subsisting between labourers and employers in this parish.
4. I am of opinion that the common interests of employers and labourers (being inseparably connected) do not require the aid of external intervention, for promoting a good understanding between the parties.
5. The labourers at the present time seem to perform their work willingly; the cause of the contrary event occasionally happening may generally be traced to the want of proper management on the property where it occurs.

situated, that the occupation of the house, and the privilege of planting the land attached to it, is meant (if not understood) as forming a set-off against the payment of the full value of the labourer's daily work, remarking at the same time, that the annual difference of the wages, which I will suppose to be the rent, is a low price for the comfort which the labourer's house and land generally afford him.

11. The labourers in this parish are simply engaged to perform day labour, which engagement I should consider only binding for one day; but the knowledge that if they do not work steadily and continuously, that they would not be allowed to occupy their houses on the property, generally induces them to remain settled on one estate.

12. The labourers are very averse to agreements of any sort.

13. They are most litigiously disposed, resorting to law on most frivolous grounds.

14. The new island laws, regulating the relations between masters and servants have never to the present time been acted on in this parish: proprietors and managers finding the plans which they were forced to adopt on the disallowance of the former act to succeed very well, deem it impolitic to run any risk of disturbing the good order and tranquillity which at present prevail, by making any alteration in their system of management. The Act for the suppression of vagrancy has also not been acted on, but cannot fail to operate as a protection to the industrious labourer.

15. I have been called on once to investigate a complaint of the unlawful occupation of a house and land (by a female called Mercy Grace), formerly attached to Apes' Hill plantation, for disorderly conduct.

16. A very sensible diminution in the number of agricultural labourers took place immediately after the termination of apprenticeship.

17. Great numbers, or nearly all the labourers, have returned to the estates which they left on 1st August, 1838, or shortly after, and I consider that in general they are much attached to the places where they have been born and brought up.

18. Those persons who abandon agricultural labour, usually betake themselves to domestic employments, and some to carpenters, shoemakers, and tailors' trades, &c. &c.

19. I have granted thirteen certificates to persons desirous of emigrating from this parish, five of whom were females, and all of whom, it was evident, have been induced to go from many false allurements held out to them.

20. From my knowledge of the character and feelings of the Barbados peasantry, I consider their emigration to be the result of the gross deceptions practised by emigration agents and their emissaries, by holding out promises which they never realize, making engagements which they know are not valid, and representations of the correctness of which in their infant state of education it would be unnatural to suppose the Barbados labourers could form any idea.

21. The ages of the emigrants from this parish were, I should say, from 16 to 40.

22. I am of opinion, that so far from there being a surplus of labouring population in this island, that no labourers could be spared without decided disadvantage.

23. The children of the labourers in this parish are entirely supported by their parents, and the greater part are brought up in great idleness.

24. My parish affords a large school, and plenty of accommodation in a church and chapel; the attendance at both is equal to, but does not exceed, the accommodation afforded.

25. The children would be most readily employed on every estate on which their parents are located, but the most decided aversion is evinced by them to train their children to agricultural pursuits.

26. Labourers appear to take little interest in the complexional differences between the white, coloured, or black classes of inhabitants; as masters or employers, I should say they decidedly prefer the former.

27. So far from the authorities or gentry of the island wishing to interfere with the rights of freedom of the labouring population, or wishing virtually to retain them in a state of slavery, every opportunity is seized to point out to them their new, improved, and happy condition.

28. The labourers are fully aware of the existence of, and the advantages afforded them by, the Court of Appeal, and immediately after my decision in any case is made known, the right of appeal from it is fully explained.

29. I am of opinion that the advantages afforded by the Court of Appeal, renders the present judicial system more conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition, than that existing under the late Special Magistrates.

30. The labourers are generally becoming aware of the institution of Courts of Reconciliation; in most cases they cheerfully attend when summoned as jurors, and evince much interest in the proceedings.

31. I have had many opportunities of bringing these tribunals into operation for the adjustment of differences, and am of opinion that their permanent establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes.

32. Answered by No. 29.

33. I have used my utmost endeavours to obtain an accurate account of the quantity of sugar, made by the proprietors of estates, for labourers attached thereto, but have found it impossible to get a correct statement; by some it has been refused, by others it has been promised but never forwarded, and I cannot detain my report: from my own observation, I should say very little has been made; their crops, in common with most estates in this parish, having failed from the excessive dry season.

34. Since my last report, the labourers in this parish have paid more attention to the raising of stock, but the exact quantity, owing to the same reason as just stated in No. 33, cannot be ascertained; all parties, however, concur in stating that large quantities of all descriptions are kept by labourers, and I notice, in many instances, that several horses are kept by labourers in this parish.

35. There is no reason to dread a recurrence of the scarcity of provisions, threatened in the earlier part of 1839.

36. The prospects of the ensuing crop are very cheering, the cultivation has been good, and the season favourable.

37. There has been, since the abolition of apprenticeship, a greatly increased demand from the labouring population, for the luxuries of life, such as wine, articles of dress, &c. &c.

38. Savings' Banks, and Friendly Societies, would no doubt be beneficial. One of the latter has been established by the rector of this parish, and is, I believe, as yet well supported.

39. I was brought up in England, and have no hesitation in saying that the peasantry of Barbados,

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as at present circumstanced, is as happy as that of England, exclusive of the advantages afforded the former by the difference of climate.

40. An Act to establish a lunatic asylum is much required.

(Signed)

FRANCIS THORNHILL, Police Magistrate.

No. 3.—*Parish of St. George.*

1. Peaceable since my appointment to the magisterial jurisdiction of this parish.
2. Of assaults and batteries.
3. I am of opinion there is not.
4. I am of that opinion.
5. Upon the majority of estates they do; if not, I ascribe the cause to injudicious management.
6. From sunrise to four o'clock, p.m., daily; one hour of which space is allowed for breakfast. Saturday generally excepted.
7. Not generally, I believe, with the labourers, who mostly prefer task work.
8. From two bits to a quarter of a dollar a-day. In money, by weekly payments, generally.
9. They are generally supplied with a room, or cottage, with or without a few perches of land around it; upon the terms of labouring five days in every week (sickness and other unforeseen events excepted), besides the ordinary rate of daily wages.
10. It is not generally. See answer 9. Upon some estates, the rent of land detached from a labourer's cottage (say, a quarter of an acre, at a weekly rent of two bits), is a distinct charge, having reference to the estate duty performed by the labourer.
11. I do not exactly know. The labourers located upon the several estates usually enter into verbal agreements to perform five days' labour in every week: no records of this nature are lodged in my office. Some labourers prefer simple day labour, wherever they can obtain employment above the ordinary rate of estate wages, which engagement is only binding for one day.
12. I believe they generally prefer verbal to written agreements.
13. I believe they are; some of them are litigiously disposed.
14. I am of opinion that it has.
15. I have in two cases, and believe the fault existed in both.
16. I am; the diminution has been very sensible, especially within the last six months.
17. Very few according to my information. I consider that some of the labourers, of 40 years of age and upwards, are attached to the estates on which they have been born and brought up.
18. To such kind of employment as they prefer, or can obtain.
19. Not to any considerable extent; fifty-six is the number hitherto. To the natural desire of improving their condition.
20. I conclude that their emigration has been spontaneous, particularly with reference to the present facility of their conveyance from this island to British Guiana.
21. From 18 to 25 years of age; the majority of emigrants have consisted of males.
22. The well-known fact, that many labourers and artificers have gone away from this island to British Guiana, within the last twelve months, is, in my opinion, sufficient proof that there was a surplus population. The present population is dense, but I do not think that a large proportion of labourers might be spared from this island without disadvantage.
23. Very poor generally. They are chiefly supported by their parents.
24. I do not know. My place of public worship is St. Luke's chapel. The attendance there is equal to the accommodation.
25. I believe they are. Few of their parents are disposed to train them to agricultural pursuits.
26. I am of opinion that they do.
27. I have not. The present government of this island is the greatest security for the rights of freedom.
28. They are.
29. I consider that both systems have worked well hitherto for the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition.
30. They are in this parish, and attend willingly. They do.
31. Not many hitherto. I am of that opinion.
32. I consider the judicial system established by the erection of the Court of Appeal, most conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition.
33. I do not know.
34. I do not exactly know. In addition to pigs, goats, and some kinds of domestic fowls, which they were formerly permitted to keep, many labourers are now possessed of cattle, and some of horses.
35. I believe there is. I have heard no apprehensions of scarcity recently expressed by the planters of this parish.
36. They depend upon the weather. Not favourable as yet.
37. I am.
38. I am of opinion that Friendly Societies would be beneficial to the labouring classes, and have been credibly informed of the establishment of three such in this parish, which are contributed to by some labourers of good character; but I cannot suggest how they may be best promoted.
39. I consider the labourers of Barbados a happy peasantry as at present circumstanced.
40. I have not.

(Signed)

W. GRIFFITH, Police Magistrate.

No. 4.—*Parish of St. John.*

1. The general conduct of the labourers of this parish, since my last quarterly report, has been peaceable, but a spirit of speculation has obtained amongst them, which has rendered them less steady and settled in their habits than heretofore.
2. Petty assaults.
3. See report of 31st March.

This I ascribe in great measure to the effects of emigration, and the excitement produced in their minds by the efforts of emigration agents.

6. See report of 31st March.

7. Task work has latterly been again adopted, owing to the irregular labour given by labourers attached to plantations.

8. The ordinary rate of wages of labourers attached to plantations remains at two bits per day of nine hours, and all extra labour during the reaping season is estimated at that ratio.

9. Those labourers who are attached to the plantations on which they are employed, are generally supplied with lodging and a small spot of land for cultivation. Continuous labour of five days per week is usually required, for which daily labour they are paid as stated in the foregoing reply, without any deduction being made for rent of house or land; but in cases where the labourer omits to give the five days' labour, a practice has obtained of deducting a certain quota for such blank days. There are some plantations on which a larger portion of land is allowed the labourers, for which they pay a stipulated labour rent.

10. Answered by the foregoing.

11. See report of 31st March.

12. See report of 31st March.

13. See report of 31st March.

14. See report of 31st March.

15. See report of 31st March.

16. See report of 31st March.

17. See report of 31st March.

18. See report of 31st March.

19. During the last three months there has been a very considerable number of emigrants from among the labourers of this parish. Two hundred and forty-two have obtained certificates from the parish authorities to enable them to leave the island, but I believe that not more than two-thirds of that number have actually quitted. From the information I have been able to gather, it appears that in the first instance promises of high wages and extensive privileges held out by emigration agents were eagerly caught at by some few already unsettled and discontented persons, who, returning to Barbados as sub-agents, with exaggerated statements of the advantages of British Guiana, induced numbers of the labourers to leave under their directions; but many of this parish who had been thus seduced, have returned, and by their disinterested accounts of that colony have at present entirely put an end to emigration from this district.

20. Answered by the foregoing.

21. The majority of emigrants from this parish have been males, generally between the ages of twenty and thirty years.

22. See report of 31st March.

23. See report of 31st March.

24. See report of 31st March.

25. See report of 31st March.

26. See report of 31st March.

27. See report of 31st March.

28. See report of 31st March.

29. See report of 31st March.

30. See report of 31st March.

31. See report of 31st March.

32. See report of 31st March.

33. In common with the general falling-off of the sugar crops of the island, the labourers have suffered a diminution of more than a third of their last crop of that commodity; but they have increased their cultivation of ginger and aloes, which articles have borne a high price in the markets of this year. Of the exact quantity of the crops, I have no means of ascertaining.

34. See report of 31st March.

35. See report of 31st March.

36. The prospects of the ensuing crop of this parish are promising, and general state of cultivation good; the growing season has been rather unfavourable for the last three months.

37. See report of 31st March.

38. See report of 31st March.

39. See report of 31st March.

40. See report of 31st March.

(Signed)

HENRY PILGRIM, Police Magistrate.

No. 5.—*Parish of Christ Church.*

1. Generally speaking their conduct is good.

2. Petty thefts and breaches of the peace, but more particularly the latter.

3. I have no reason to alter the opinion on this head of inquiry, as given in my last report.

4. My view of this subject remains the same as in my last report.

5. The labourers when employed on other properties than those on which they are domiciled, work more willingly than they do at home, which is to be attributed to the circumstance of their receiving on those occasions extra supplies of refreshments.

6. No circumstances have arisen since my last report, requiring an alteration of the views and opinions then given in my answer to this question.

7. No circumstances have arisen since my last report, requiring an alteration of the views and opinions then given in my answer to this question.

8. No alteration since my last report.

9. No circumstances have arisen since my last report, requiring an alteration in my answer to this question.

10. No circumstances have arisen since my last report, requiring an alteration in my answer to this question.

11. No alteration since my last report.

12. They are averse to written agreements.

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13. No circumstances have arisen since my last report requiring an alteration to my answer to this question.

14. No circumstances have arisen since my last report requiring an alteration in my answer to this question.

15. I have not been called upon this quarter to investigate any complaint of this nature.

16. No great diminution has taken place.

17. In many cases the labourers have returned to, and again located themselves on, the properties they had left.

18. To domestic service, trades, and huckstering.

19. The emigration of labourers from this parish, considering its population, has not been to any considerable extent, as I have granted, in conjunction with the churchwarden, only sixty-one certificates during this quarter. When, however, I refer to the fact, that for the whole period of the previous quarter not a single application was made to me for emigration certificates, I must conclude that very artful means and alluring temptations must have been resorted to by emigration agents in working on the ignorance of those who have thus been induced to quit the land of their birth.

20. From my knowledge of the character and feelings of the Barbados peasantry, and their strong attachment to their native land, I feel perfectly assured that their emigration is by no means spontaneous.

21. The ages, generally speaking, are from 20 to 35, and the majority males.

22. It cannot be said that we have a surplus population, requiring to be relieved by emigration.

23. No circumstances have arisen since my last report requiring an alteration of the answer then given to this query.

24. No circumstances have arisen since my last report requiring an alteration of the answer then given to this query.

25. No circumstances have arisen since my last report requiring an alteration of the answer then given to this query.

26. No circumstances have arisen since my last report requiring an alteration of the answer then given to this query.

27. No circumstances have arisen since my last report requiring an alteration of the answer then given to this query.

28. No circumstances have arisen since my last report requiring an alteration of the answer then given to this query.

29. No circumstances have arisen since my last report requiring an alteration of the answer then given to this query.

30. No circumstances have arisen since my last report requiring an alteration of the answer then given to this query.

31. I still continue to hold Courts of Reconciliation, and as I have in every case been successful in adjusting differences, I am of opinion that their permanent establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes.

32. I consider the judicial system obtaining since the creation of the Court of Appeal far more conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition, than that which prevailed during the employment of the late special magistrates.

33. The apathy shewn by proprietors of estates, in furnishing information under this head, renders it impossible to form an estimate of the quantity of sugar made for the labourers, but considering the very short crop, owing to the long continuance of drought the last year, I should think that very little was made for them this year.

34. The general aversion of the labourers to make known the quantity of their stock, from an erroneous impression that it is intended to tax them, renders it impossible to ascertain the quantity possessed by them; but from the abundant supply at market, and the fall in price since my last report, I am induced to think that their property in stock has greatly augmented.

35. This inquiry does not, on this occasion, require an answer varying from that contained in my last report.

36. This inquiry does not, on this occasion, require an answer varying from that contained in my last report.

37. This inquiry does not, on this occasion, require an answer varying from that contained in my last report.

38. This inquiry does not, on this occasion, require an answer varying from that contained in my last report.

39. This inquiry does not, on this occasion, require an answer varying from that contained in my last report.

40. This inquiry does not, on this occasion, require an answer varying from that contained in my last report.

(Signed)

JOSEPH P. EVELYN, Police Magistrate.

No. 6.—Parish of St Peter.

1. The conduct of the labourers in this parish has been generally quiet and orderly.

2. The majority of offences are assault and battery, and disorderly conduct in Speight's Town; the latter offence has very much decreased.

3. If I may judge from the few complaints that have been made to me by either party, a good feeling exists between employers and labourers.

4. External intervention is at all times to be deprecated, if it can possibly be avoided, and I have no doubt that the mutual interests of employers and labourers will induce a good understanding between them.

5. I have had but one complaint from employers of unwillingness on the part of the labourers to perform their work, and I believe they generally perform it diligently.

6. From six till nine, and from ten till four.

7. Task work is not generally resorted to when young plants, particularly canes (which require extra care), are to be weeded; in other instances, such as hoeing, moulding, and weeding mature plants, it is commonly resorted to.

8. The ordinary rate of wages is two bits per day. On a few estates the custom is to give a quarter dollar per day, and to charge the labourer from half a dollar to a dollar per month rent, according to

the size of the house, but without reference to the number of occupants, with permission for him to work where he pleases. In crop time, extra wages, varying from half a bit to a bit per day, and a few gratuities are given.

9. The labourers in this parish are supplied with lodging, and generally with a spot of cultivable land, for which they pay no rent, with the exception stated in the preceding answer. If they absent themselves and work elsewhere, half a bit, and on some estates a bit, per day, is deducted from their wages, in order to obtain continuous labour. This regulation is well understood by them. In cases of sickness, or where notice is given by the labourer that he intends to absent himself, no deduction is made.

10. Answered by the two foregoing.

11. No contracts for the performance of agricultural labour exist in this parish; labourers and employers are both opposed to it.

12. Answered by the preceding.

13. The labourers, as a body, in their general intercourse with each other, are upon friendly terms, although litigiously inclined.

14. Neither law has been in operation in this parish since their renewal.

15. I have not.

16. From some estates in this parish few, if any, labourers have emigrated. From others, emigration has taken place to a considerable extent since the middle of last April. There are no records of emigrants in this office prior to that time.

17. Most of the labourers who quitted the estates on which they were domiciled, on the 1st of August, 1838, have subsequently returned to them. I believe that in general they have a strong feeling of attachment to the estates on which they were born and brought up.

18. Many of them are employed as fishermen and porters, and in huckstering.

19. From the middle of April to 30th June last, 252 persons, exclusive of 57 children, have received certificates to authorize their departure. I attribute the disposition which has lately manifested itself on the part of the labourers to emigrate, to promises held out to them by emigration agents of higher wages, and of other advantages, which they are made to believe they will receive in British Guiana.

20. I believe that a great majority of the labourers are induced to emigrate for reasons mentioned in the last answer.

21. A large proportion of the emigrants from this parish are young people of both sexes. The average ages of those able to perform field labour may be from 28 to 30 years. The number of male emigrants preponderates largely, being about three to one.

22. I am not of that opinion. The labourers in this parish are never at a loss for employment when disposed to work.

23. Those that are not employed in agriculture are sent to school, and supported by their parents and other relatives. They are generally well clothed and healthy.

24. This parish affords ample facilities for education and religious instruction. There are four schools under the direction of the Established Church (two of which are licensed for the performance of Divine service), at which upwards of four hundred children are now receiving their education. A Wesleyan chapel and school are also established in Speight's Town, at which two hundred and thirty-four children are being educated. There are also several other schools conducted by private individuals; at one of these schools there are a hundred and forty-five children in the course of education. The attendance at the parish church is not equal to the accommodation it affords.

25. Employers are disposed to hire the children of labourers where they are located; but the parents and relatives of the children prefer bringing them up as tradesmen and domestics.

26. The labourers do not appear to take any interest in complexional distinctions.

27. I have not.

28. They are fully aware of it, and of the facility with which they can resort to it.

29. I cannot consider any system of judicial control which wears an exclusive character, in reference to certain classes of the community, as beneficial to society; nor that the late system of special magistracy could ever conduce to the real welfare of the labouring population of this island in their free condition. The present mode of administering justice, by complaint to a police magistrate, with a ready access to the existing Court of Appeal, appears to work satisfactorily to all parties; and I am not aware that any attempt has been made to impugn the conduct and decisions of this superior court.

30. I believe that the labourers are fully aware of the institution of Courts of Reconciliation. They readily attend when summoned as jurors, and evince some tact and knowledge in the examination of witnesses.

31. During the short time I have been in office, six trials have occurred before me, subject to the decision of Courts of Reconciliation; and I am of opinion that their establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes, particularly as respects riotous or disorderly conduct. Admonition from the principal men of their class appears likely to prove effective.

32. Answered by No. 29.

33 and 34. From the imperfect information I have obtained, it appears that the labourers in this parish have reaped about twenty thousand weight of sugar, netting, at the rate sugar is now selling, about fifteen hundred dollars. This quantity is much shorter than that of last year, owing to the long prevalence of dry weather. I have had some difficulty in ascertaining the quantity of stock they possess, and believe the following account of it to be far short of the actual number:—10 horses, 82 cattle, 2,000 sheep and goats, 2,000 pigs, besides feathered stock.

35. From the quantity of ground provisions, corn, &c., now planted, I infer that there is no probability of a scarcity of those articles; but of course this altogether depends upon the state of the weather and other contingencies.

36. The prospect of the ensuing crop, owing to the several weeks' drought, is uncertain; but the late rains have improved its appearance. The state of preparation is good.

37. The clothes they now wear are of a superior kind and texture to those worn by them during the apprenticeship. They often indulge in luxuries which they are now able to procure.

38. If savings' banks were established, I am of opinion that they would be contributed to by the labourers, and be the means of their saving a little money for useful purposes, which they may otherwise idly and unprofitably dispose of. There is a friendly society in this parish, under the patronage of his Excellency the Governor, which is attended with beneficial effects to the labouring classes, and is supported by monthly contributions from them.

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39. I consider the condition of the labouring population of this country, compared to that of cold climates, far superior. In this country the labourer has no occasion to provide himself or his family with warm clothing, or fire on a winter's evening. Infants are often seen basking in the sun, independent of those articles of dress essential in a cold climate. Clothing, by retail, can be procured as cheap here as in England. I am therefore of opinion that the labourers here are better paid, and possess the means of being quite as happy as those of any other part of the British dominions.

40. Complaints have frequently been made to me by labourers and others of inferior condition, that they have advanced money, and in many instances found materials, to have an article of dress or furniture, &c. made, and that the dishonest tradesman would neither comply with his engagement nor return the money and materials. As complaints of this kind are not cognizable by a magistrate, I would recommend that an Act be passed to give the aggrieved party redress by summary process, where the sum or value of the materials claimed does not exceed ten pounds, before a police magistrate. I would also recommend a modification of the building ordinance, to permit the erection or removal of wooden structures in situations other than the principal streets.

(Signed)

J. C. B. SCANTLEBURY, Police Magistrate.

No. 7.—*Parish of St. Thomas.*

In answer to the questions relative to the working of the free system in this island, for the quarter ending 30th June, I have the honour to state that I see no reason to alter or add to my former report on this subject, from No. 1 to 21, with the exception of the names and ages of eight persons who have received certificates of emigration from my office; but I am not certain if they have in reality quitted:—Edward Miller, aged 38; John Tony, 30; James Thomas Williams, 17; Jack Thomas, 27; Samuel Thomas Squires, 35; Thomas Gunnel, 18; William Sainthill, 45; Mary Ann Elizabeth Christian, 13;—7 males; 1 female.

33. The planters seem averse to furnish me with the necessary means of replying to this question, as I really cannot get from them any account of the sugar reaped for the labourers: but if I could be allowed to form any opinion upon what information I have received from the labourers themselves, I should suppose the quantity to be about 40 hogsheads, which, at 40*l.* currency, will give 1,600*l.*

34. For the reasons before stated I cannot accurately answer this question; but from the labourers with whom I have communicated on this subject, I should suppose that their various stocks have increased, as they themselves acknowledge that they have as many as they can possibly keep.

35. The crop of ground provisions, corn, &c., now growing will, in my opinion, preclude the possibility of any thing like a scarcity for the present year.

36. The cultivation of my district is excellent, and the seasons are now very favourable; and should it please God to continue the same, an abundant harvest will be reaped the next year.

38. The "friendly societies" in this parish are in a flourishing state; and I *now see* that savings' banks, if properly conducted, would tend greatly to the advantage of the labouring population, as the rate of interest would be greater than in the present established banks. See the sums lately vested by the Mount Wilton labourers.

39. I can only reiterate what I have before said on this subject.

(Signed)

J. CAREW, Police Magistrate.

No. 8.—*Parish of St. Thomas.*

1 to 13. Vide answers in first series, dated April 1839.

14. Vide answer in *third* series, dated April 1840.

15. Vide answer in first series, dated April 1839.

16. Vide answer in third series, dated April 1840.

17, 18. Vide answer in second series, dated September 1839.

19. Since my last reply to these queries (third series), about one hundred tickets of emigration have been signed by me, and these in the months of May and June; not more than half this number have emigrated; and of these several have returned, giving such deplorable accounts of the colonies of Demerara and Berbice, as seemingly to have checked the mania which has so recently afflicted our population. Only a single application has been made to me in July; and many who have used a ticket as the rod of desertion held over the planter, have found out their mistake—and, repenting of their almost suicidal intentions, have been restored to their former domiciles—and are now, I trust, employing the best of all teachers, but one, in the regulation of their present conduct. Others have been less fortunate: having recklessly abandoned their homes, their places have been filled up by less restless spirits; and they are now wandering from place to place, availing themselves of casual employment, and sometimes at a higher rate of wages, but without the settled home and many substantial comforts of their wiser brethren, and to their own moral deterioration.

20. I have always considered, and still consider, the Barbadian peasant attached to his native soil; and the contradiction given to this opinion in the fact of so many having abandoned it in so short a period of time, only proves how strong the incentives have been to create such an unfortunate line of conduct. In due course of time emigration from an almost over-peopled land may have become the result of enterprize or enterprising spirit; but here such hasty, such reckless expatriation, can only have been produced and kept up by strong and successive stimulants. Nothing short of slavery could have inflicted on our peasantry evils of such a serious and, I fear, lasting kind, as those which this forced spirit of emigration has entailed. I am fully aware of the natural right of every intelligent British subject to carry himself and his labour (certain solemn duties inviolate) to the land of his choice. I rejoice to have lived to witness the *late slave*, not only in the possession but the exercise of this privilege. The day on which I wrote this I can truly avow as the anniversary of the proudest and happiest day to myself, as well as to the slave; but I am as fully convinced that it is the bounden duty of the authorities of the land to watch carefully over the interests of the newly emancipated peasantry, and, above all things, to enact such wholesome regulations as may secure them against the artifices of cupidity and faction. To minds far better disciplined than theirs, the influences of excitement have ever been experienced—where the most salutary political innovations have been introduced with the nicest caution. No wonder, then, that in their almost infantine condition the disgraceful attempts of their pretended friends should have been too successful. At a critical moment, when a law to regulate the ill-defined relations of employer and labourer had

possessed the legislative bodies, a private emigration agent appears; and when an enactment passes to protect the labourer from the ill effects of as vile a system of "crimping" as ever disgraced humanity, this very enactment is falsely represented as restrictive of his newly acquired freedom; and, to the present moment, throughout this otherwise peaceable land, a constant ferment has been kept up. The peasant of this island, perhaps the healthiest spot on the globe, is goaded on by these unworthy emissaries to desert the home of his fathers for the swamps of Guiana, where new diseases and new habits await him, among a race jealous of his intrusion, and who are represented (I trust falsely) as conspiring to revenge on him (the unsuspecting tool of these new traffickers in human flesh) the attempt made to reduce their wages by increasing the number of labourers in Guiana. The high wages offered he finds to be an unreal advantage in a land where every luxury (cheap here) is enormously dear; where the long and well known disparity of sexes, now rapidly increasing, threatens to subvert the hopes of every social and domestic endearment; and where, to use the language once used by a statement of the Anti-Slavery Society, the mortality is such as in half a century (if equally pervading other countries) to depopulate the world. Under all these considerations I am bound to say that the emigration of the Barbados peasant has not been less involuntary than experience is proving it to be disadvantageous. If the labours of British philanthropists have already been so successful in putting a stop to what the Anti-Slavery Report of last year calls "the accursed system of deluding the peaceful inhabitants of Hindostan, and of transplanting them from their homes to labour under the burning sky, amidst the unhealthy swamps of Demerara," it is the hope of every philanthropist here that his exertions may be crowned with equal success in behalf of his own peasantry.

21. The ages of the emigrants vary from 20 to 40, and almost all males; very few children.

22, 34. Vide answers in first, second, and third series.

35. The quantity of ground provisions, corn, &c., is much greater than for the two last years; and promises, under God's blessing, an abundant supply.

36 to 40. Vide former answers in former series.

(Signed)

W. S. AUSTIN, Police Magistrate.

No. 9.—*Parish of St. Lucy.*

1. Indolent and disorderly. They were particularly so during the last reaping season; and are very litigious amongst themselves.

2. Assault and battery, theft, debt, and injury to property.

3. The good feeling has not improved since my last report; and I attribute it to the seditious advice given to the labourers from certain incendiary characters, who have nothing in the community at stake, and are opposed to everything like "rule, order, and society."

4. I believe the interests of employers and labourers would be established if there were no external interventions.

5. They have not improved in this respect since my last report. They are very much influenced by a desire for emigration.

6. Nine hours per day out of crop time, performed when most convenient to the labourers; and, during the crop, extra payment for any work done over nine hours.

7. Task work is now generally preferred both by employers and labourers.

8. Two bits per day, and in the reaping season a half bit additional per hogshead to all employed about the mill and boiling house, as an equivalent for any time spent beyond nine hours in the manufacture of sugar.

9. The labourers are generally supplied with lodgings, and the great majority of them have comfortable houses gratuitously; they have also, on most estates, a quarter of an acre of cultivable land each, and no charge made for rent of it.

10. When the labourers bestow their labour on other estates than those on which they have houses or land, they are generally charged from half a bit to one bit for each day's absence, but not otherwise.

11. No contracts for work have ever been made in giving task work; the employers and labourers are generally guided by the scale of labour established at the commencement of the apprenticeship in 1834.

12. They have an objection to being restrained by any agreements, but particularly written.

13. Not on a happy footing, and very litigiously disposed.

14. Has not yet produced the desired effect, no contract being entered into, and a spirit of vagrancy seeming to influence the labouring class.

15. In no case since my last report.

16. A diminution has taken place, and particularly latterly, which I think is daily increasing, as appears to me from the several inducements held out to them to emigrate to British Guiana, from the many certificates applied for for that purpose.

17. A great many did return, but they are very unsettled; they do not now appear to evince much attachment to the estates on which they have been born and brought up, and I attribute this apparent change in their sentiments to their willingness to listen to the deceptions practised upon them to induce them to emigrate, by artful and designing persons.

18. Hawking and peddling, infesting the towns, and passing themselves off as domestics.

19. One hundred and seventy-seven persons have obtained certificates of emigration from this parish since my last report. I attribute the propensity to the causes hereinbefore adverted to in reply to question No. 16.

20. I certainly conceive that their emigration has not been spontaneous, and that they have been urged to it by the publications in that mischievous journal, the *Liberal*, and the machinations of a man called Thomas Day, of British Guiana.

21. One hundred and forty-six males, and thirty-one females, have obtained certificates for emigration since my last report. Adults and able-bodied persons chiefly emigrate.

22. I am of opinion that agricultural labourers cannot be spared.

23. Their condition is good, and they are supported by their parents, but mostly out of the means of estates on which they live.

24. The parish only supplies one large school room; there are numerous private schools where education may be acquired very cheaply; the attendance at church, and in the schools, is equal to the accommodation.

25. Very few capable of doing anything are allowed by their parents to remain on any estates

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during the day. The parents have a decided objection to training them to agricultural pursuits; and they are generally apprenticed to trades, going to school, or wasting their time in idleness.

26. None.

27. None.

28. They are fully aware of it.

29. Happier under this tribunal, being less restrained than during the apprenticeship.

30. They are fully aware of it, attend very readily, and seem to take a great interest in it.

31. I have had weekly and continued opportunities for several months past, and I think that their permanent establishment will be attended with the most beneficial results to the working classes.

32. The present system I conceive most conducive to their happiness and welfare.

33. Very little sugar has been manufactured in this parish this year for the labourers, attributable to two causes:—Firstly, the very unfavourable weather experienced the last year; and, secondly, their having turned their attention latterly more to the cultivation of provisions than canes.

34. On all estates they keep sheep, pigs, goats, and poultry, to a great extent, and on some they possess horned cattle.

35. This question cannot now be answered, this being only the commencement of the provision planting season.

36. The prospects of the ensuing crop is at present favourable, and the general state of cultivation good. The season hitherto has been rather unfavourable.

37. I am aware there has been, especially for articles of dress.

38. I do not think that savings' banks or friendly societies would be contributed to by the labourers, as I believe they spend their money as fast as earned.

39. In comparing their situation with that of the peasantry of England, and particularly that of Ireland as it has come under my observation, I consider the labourers of Barbados a very happy peasantry as at present circumstanced.

40. I think that a trespass act being in force in this island, would be very beneficial to the community in general.

(Signed)

A. H. MORRIS, Police Magistrate.

No. 10.—*Parish of St. Andrew.*

1. I think they are less litigious than when I received my appointment; except in very aggravated cases, the greater number call on the magistrate to report their case and ask advice; they are respectful in their behaviour generally, still irregular in their attendance at work, and require constant inspection to the execution and amount which they should perform.

2. The same as my last report.

3. The same as my last report.

4. The impulse which has been given to emigration by the pernicious interference of private emigration agents, has induced many of the labourers to abandon responsible and lucrative situations for that purpose; my former opinion on the subject is therefore shaken.

5. The same as my last report.

6. No change has taken place since my last report.

7. The same as my last report.

8. A strong desire on the part of the labourers to advance the wages has prevailed since my last report, although it remains generally as then stated. I have had no complaint for inadequate payment during the crop.

9. The same as my last report.

10. The same as my last report.

11. The same as my last report.

12. The same as my last report.

13. I think them less disposed to litigation than they were at the period of my last report; they nevertheless have frequent virulent quarrels about trifling matters, and resort to the most vulgar and obscene language towards each other.

14. One complaint only has been preferred against a vagrant during the present quarter; he was dismissed, as he had committed no crime. The labourers having an insurmountable objection to contract labour, let it alone whenever they please, being only subject to a trifling house rent for the omission.

15. The same as my last report.

16. The number of agricultural labourers who have emigrated from this parish since my last report, has been comparatively few, but a considerable loss of labour to both parties has been the result of that pernicious influence.

17. The same as my last report.

18. The same as my last report.

19. Only twenty persons have received certificates for emigration during the past quarter at this office. The population of this parish have not seemed generally disposed to emigrate.

20. In addition to those who have obtained certificates, only ten others have applied to me for that purpose, one of whom voluntarily abandoned it afterwards.

21. Seven men, five women, three lads, and five children, are the whole amount who have received certificates for emigration; one man of these has engaged himself in the superintendence of a sugar estate in St. Andrew's parish, and one of the women is still here with her husband, on an estate contiguous to that on which she formerly resided.

22. I do not think that there is any surplus of agricultural labourers; there are plenty of idlers to be seen almost everywhere, who cannot be induced to labour for themselves or any one else.

23. The same as my last report.

24. There are three schools of the Established Church of England, and one of the Wesleyan. The parish church, and one chapel, which has been recently enlarged, of the Established Church of England, and one Wesleyan chapel, besides a temporary place of worship in which the rector of the parish gives service every Sunday morning; the schools are numerous attended, and the attendance at the places of worship have exceeded the accommodation; it is expected St. Simon's Chapel, which has been enlarged, will be re-opened in the present month. The number of children at the three schools of the Established Church amount to two hundred and sixty-five; two other schools are in contemplation.

25. The same as my last report.
26. The same as my last report.
27. The same as my last report.
28. They are fully aware of it.
29. The same as my last report.
30. The same as my last report.
31. The results continue to recommend them as a powerful resource for accommodation.
32. The same as my last report.
33. The same as my last report.
34. The same as my last report.
35. I continue to think that there is.
36. The season cannot be reported as a favourable one. The sugar crop, now finished in this parish, very short of quantity; the young crop has unquestionably suffered by dry weather and high winds.
37. The same as my last report.
38. Of savings' banks my opinion continues the same as in my last report. The first anniversary of the friendly society of this parish, was held on the 25th of the present month, at which one hundred and eighteen members were present, with a reasonable prospect of its increasing.
- 39 and 40. The same as my last report.

(Signed)

JAMES S. BASCOM, Acting Police Magistrate.

No. 11.—*Parish of St. Michael.—Rural District.*

1. The conduct of the labourers in the rural district of this parish, has been such as generally to give satisfaction.
2. The majority of cases brought before me are for assaults, petty thefts, and small debts incurred to the shop keepers.
3. As far as I can judge, and from information received from the most respectable parties, I have every reason to believe, that in the rural district of this parish there exists at present a mutual good understanding between the labourers and their employers; and I am further borne out in this opinion, from the fact, that scarcely a single complaint has been made to me of any disagreement between them.
4. I am of opinion that, if left to themselves, the mutual interest of employers and labourers will be the surest means of establishing that good understanding so essential to the welfare and happiness of each party; and that external intervention, whilst it interferes with many salutary measures adopted by the executive and other branches of the legislature, who, residing on the spot, must necessarily be better acquainted with the wants of all classes of the community, tends, in a great measure, to keep up a spirit of irritation, and to engender in the minds of the labourers towards their employers a spirit of distrust and discontent.
5. The labourers in this parish are, with the exception of a few cases, I believe, performing their work willingly. I hear no complaints to the contrary.
6. From 6 to 10 a.m., and from 11 to 4 p.m.
7. Task work is not generally resorted to in this parish, not from any disinclination on the part of the labourers to perform it, but from an opinion formed by most of the planters that it is an injudicious practice, tending, in many instances, to the performance of bad work by some of the labourers, who, from their inability to get through their work as quick as others, often leave their task in an unfinished and slovenly state. On this subject, however, there is a great difference of opinion between some of the best and most practical planters.
8. Two bits per diem to those labourers who are located on the estates, and a quarter dollar to others. In the reaping season, those employed about the work are, for extra time, either paid so much for each hogshead of sugar made, or an additional sum allowed to their daily pay, besides many small perquisites.
9. Those located are furnished with a house, and on most estates with a small portion of land to cultivate; should they require more they pay for it, at the rate of from seven to ten pounds an acre per annum.
10. The occupation of the house, and privilege of planting the field of ground attached to it, though not specifically stated as part of the daily wages of the labourer, cannot, in my opinion, be viewed in any other light than forming a part of his hire; as, from the fact of those persons who do not reside on the properties (and therefore not enjoying these privileges) receiving a quarter dollar, or three bits, for their day's work, evidently shows that the house and land is taken into consideration.
11. The engagements between employers and employed is for no certain time, each party being at liberty to use his own discretion, and it is generally considered to be only for such a time as the parties may agree. If in any instance agreements do take place, I should imagine they must be verbal; I have not heard of any, nor have I any records of this nature in my office. Since the passing of the late "Contract Act," persons have been particularly cautious not to mention even the name of "contract," as it appears such is the magical influence of the word, on the sensitive part of the constitution of the labourer, that he instantly quits the scenes of his past life, and seeks, in a change of residence and employment, to dispel from his mind any circumstance that may recall his past state, and cast even the shadow of a doubt on the freedom of his will and action.
12. As a body, I should say verbal to written agreements.
13. I regret to say that I fear they have little confidence in each other, having recourse to the law for the slightest provocation.
14. In my answer to No. 11, I have already stated my conviction of the ill effects produced by the law relating to "Contracts," &c., which, although it contains many wise and salutary "clauses," has as yet been a dead letter. With respect to the "Vagrant Act," I conceive it will prove highly beneficial, in maintaining order and decorum among the labouring population.
15. I have not been officially called on to investigate complaints on account of the undue occupation of houses or lands by labourers, but have been privately applied to for my advice by some few of them, who having left the estate on which they had their domiciles, to work on others for an additional amount of wages, had in consequence been ordered to quit their houses, which they wished to fancy they could still occupy; but, on my representation of the fallacy of such an opinion, they most readily

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consented to remove; in some cases which, from the circumstances, I considered merited my intercession, I gave the parties a note to the manager or proprietor, and always succeeded in getting the matter arranged. In the cases alluded to, the labourers have been to blame. I think that these bickerings would be best obviated by the proprietors hiring the labourers their houses, and allowing them to work when they please.

16. I do not think that any great diminution of agricultural labour has taken place as yet in this district, but from the increase of emigration I am afraid it shortly will.

17. Many labourers have returned to the properties which they had quitted, and daily experience proves that they have in almost every instance a latent wish to return to those properties where they have been brought up and well treated.

18. The females generally take to huckstering, and the males to work as porters, boatmen, &c. &c.; many however have returned to their original employment.

19. Since my reply to the last quarterly questions, I have, as churchwarden of this parish, signed one hundred and fifty certificates to persons leaving this island, fourteen of whom were labourers, and the others principally tradesmen and domestics. With very few exceptions, they have almost all emigrated to Demerara and Berbice, and have according to their own statement, had passages furnished them free of expense, by Mr. Day and others. I have been unable to ascertain under what circumstances they leave this, if under contract or not, but I have every reason to believe that no proposition is made to them until after their certificates are obtained; when the agent, being in a great measure free from detection, has it in his power to make his own bargain with his illiterate dupes, and thus to evade the law and enable the parties to take the oath, which, as churchwarden, I am directed to administer to all who apply for certificates. I attribute their propensity to emigrate to the inducements held out to them of a free passage, and promises of high wages made by these agents and their subordinates.

20. From my knowledge of the character and feelings of the Barbados peasantry, I should say that their emigration has not been spontaneous, but that they have been imposed on by the artful designs of self-styled agents and their subordinates, who are roving throughout the country, using every means of persuasion in their power to induce the labourers to quit their houses and emigrate to Demerara; and in this pursuit I have reason to believe they are neither actuated by any regard for the welfare of the labourer, or the interest of those by whom they are paid; they allure the one by holding out to them great rewards and a life of pleasure in the land of promise, and deceive the other by sending them characters the most abandoned and worthless, showing thereby that they are actuated by no moral obligation, but care only for the head-money they receive for each emigrant. I am further borne out in the opinion that their emigration is not spontaneous, by the fact that not one has gone away to seek by his own unfettered will a livelihood in another land, but have been shipped (if I may be allowed the expression) by some of these interested agents, to their different employers. That emigration is now going on to an alarming extent is no longer doubtful, and that a considerable number evade the law by quitting without any ticket from the Secretary's office, (is now likewise clear) in defiance of the salutary precautions adopted by the executive. I would, therefore, most respectfully suggest to his Excellency, the expediency of applying to the commanders of Her Majesty's ships of war on this station, to have each vessel taking away emigrants boarded on their quitting the bay, and the persons on board produced for examination with their tickets. If it were practicable, they should be made to leave in daylight, as I am informed that night is their favourite time for departure, thereby evincing that they have some motive for concealment. I regret that I have no reason to alter any part of the above reply to the questions of the last quarter; on the contrary, their is no longer a doubt on my mind that almost every vessel that leaves with "emigrants," carries away a considerable number without tickets.

21. The ages of the emigrants, generally speaking, are from sixteen to forty, the males are more numerous than the females; there has been of late an increase of females and children.

22. I do not think that in the rural parts of the island there is a surplus population for the cultivation of the land.

23. The system at present generally adopted by the labourers in bringing up their children, is such, that if not speedily attended to, will, I am afraid, be productive hereafter of much poverty and distress to them, and entail on the community a degree of pauperism hitherto unknown. They are brought up for the most part in idleness, and supported by their parents.

24. There are great facilities afforded in this parish for religious instruction and education. Besides the cathedral there are six chapels, licensed by the lord bishop, for the performance of Divine service; the accommodation afforded in the whole may be estimated at about six thousand. The Wesleyan and Moravian Societies have also two large chapels, capable of holding about eight hundred each. There has been no addition to the schools or chapels since my last report.

25. The children on estates would be most readily employed for hire by the proprietors, but their parents keep them at home for their own purposes, and appear quite averse to engage them in any kind of agricultural labour.

26. They so far appear to take an interest in complexional distinctions, as to treat generally with more respect the white population, but otherwise they care little about it, and will work for those who pay them best.

27. I am of the same opinion as last expressed, that there is not the slightest desire on the part of the authorities and gentry of the country to revert to the old system.

28. They are fully aware of the existence of the Assistant Court of Appeal.

29. Having in my last fully expressed my sentiments on this query, I am still of the same opinion.

30. The labourers are now fully aware of the institution of Courts of Reconciliation, and most readily and cheerfully attend when required as jurors, and always evince the greatest interest in the proceedings.

great drought last year most of their canes would not make sugar, and were cut at an early period and sold for plants.

34. I am unable likewise to give to this query a positive answer, having found the greatest indifference in those concerned to give the information required, although I have used every exertion to obtain it. I can, however, confidently state, that the quantity of stock possessed by the labourers is very great, and has very much increased of late; poultry, mutton, and pork, with which the market is principally supplied by them, has, within the last few weeks fallen in price.

35. In this parish there is a great quantity of provision planted at the present time, and I have no fear that any scarcity will be experienced this year, as the other parishes have generally followed the example.

36. The prospects for the ensuing crop in this parish still continues good, although from the dry weather in May and June, the canes have suffered much; the season for the last two months has been very unfavourable; the general state of cultivation is as good as can be expected from the weather.

37. Most undoubtedly there has been a greater demand for the articles of dress and the luxuries of life, such as wine, &c., amongst the labouring population since the abolition of the apprenticeship, than before. The labourer of Barbados has always been a great lover of dress, and even during the term of slavery, as his savings were expended on that article.

38. I am of opinion that friendly societies are much better adapted to the present state of the labourers than savings' banks, as from their expensive habits I do not think they would have anything to deposit in those institutions. In this parish there are many friendly societies which are working most beneficially.

39. As far as I have had an opportunity of judging personally of the peasantry of England, and from what I have read and heard of other portions of the British dominions, I have no hesitation in declaring my conviction, that the Barbados peasantry have advantages which are possessed by few others, of living happily and contentedly, and that such is their general condition. Where it has proved otherwise, it has been the fault of crafty and designing individuals, who for their own purposes have laboured to unsettle the minds of the labourers; their motives, however, have long since been discovered by the more reflecting, and, I trust, will in no long time be visible to all.

40. I have little to add to the remarks made by me in my former report, except to remark that a lunatic asylum, to be supported by the general funds of the island, should be erected, as the limited accommodation of the present asylum, which is supported by the parochial funds of the parish, is totally inadequate to the wants of the community. I have been compelled from this circumstance to refuse many applications that have been made to me as churchwarden, by the friends and relations of persons in a state of lunacy.

(Signed)

J. W. SPENCER, Police Magistrate.

No. 12.—*Parish of St. Michael, Bridgetown.*

1. Generally peaceable and quiet, but much inclined to idleness.
2. Petty thefts, assaults, and batteries.
3. On the first commencement of freedom, there did exist a great distrust of their employers, but that feeling scarcely now exists; the labourer begins to know his true interest, and to understand the motives of emigration agents and others who wish to deceive him.
4. Experience has nearly effected the establishment of a mutual good understanding; external intervention is wholly unnecessary. The people, if not interfered with, will soon understand their real interests.
5. Rather more willingly than at the time of last return, but still there is great room for further improvement; their unwillingness arises from idle habits.
6. From 7 to 10, and from 11 to 4.
7. In this parish a good deal, but when objections arise it is generally on the part of the labourer, who is disinclined to have a stated quantity of work allotted him.
8. Two bits per day where they are located on places or estates, and an increase of one-third more during the manufacturing of sugar, with additional payment and allowances when working from necessity beyond the usual number of hours: independent or unlocated gangs, sometimes work for 1s. 10^d. per day.
9. They are so as long as they continue to work on the estates on which they are located, and that gratis; where they reside on a place and take their labour elsewhere, then a charge is made for the occupation of the house, varying according to agreement.
10. The occupation of the house, and privilege of planting and reaping the fruits of the land, is generally understood as a bonus for continued labour five days in the week, and is not made a set-off against the payment of the labourer's wages.
11. Where the labourers are domiciled, they are expected to work five days in the week, but they are entirely averse to written agreements; they usually engage verbally, no documents have ever been lodged in our office.
12. Answered by the preceding.
13. They are most litigiously inclined with regard to each other, and seem to be happy when they can have recourse to the law.
14. These acts having been lately renewed with alterations, there is no doubt they will greatly tend to the relief of the labourer as soon as he properly understands them.
15. We have not been so called on since our last answer to this query.
16. Not of agricultural labourers, but a number of artisans and domestics have been seduced away by the wiles and delusive promises of emigration agents, and if it continues we much fear there will be a great diminution in the agricultural population.
17. In many instances they have returned. It is only the aged and infirm, and fathers and mothers of large families, who seem attached to the soil they have been bred and born on.
18. Huckstering and petty trading, as porters, and employment on board vessels in the bay, in stowing sugars, &c.
19. In the months of April, May, and June, we have signed 145 emigration certificates, most of these have been for that part of the population of the town we can well spare. This is attributable to the fondness for change which pervades the minds of the ignorant and unwary, and to the delusive hopes held out and specious promises made them by the Guiana emigration agents, who impose on their credulity, and feed their avarice by bribes and artful persuasions.

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20. Certainly not spontaneous. They have been deceived by the low and crafty agents employed in this country by a neighbouring colony, and believing their condition would be made better, have emigrated to that colony; but many have already returned disgusted with the imposition practised on them, and many more will doubtless do so when opportunity offers.

21. Generally in the prime of life; the majority consists of males, and only few children have left with their parents.

22. There is no surplus population, and the agricultural labourer cannot be spared or removed without ruin to the island.

23. Very bad; their parents support them, but bring them up to idle and bad habits.

24. There are six chapels or licensed places of public worship, besides the cathedral, capable of containing 6,000 persons; they are scarcely ever full, therefore we should say there is accommodation; there are eleven public schools well attended, besides many private ones, as well as three or four under the Mico charity.

25. The children would readily be employed on estates by the owners or managers of such estates, but the parents are averse to bringing them up to agricultural pursuits.

26. They do not generally.

27. The very reverse is the case; the authorities and gentry are doing everything in their power, both by precept and example, to improve the morals and condition of the labourers, and we are certain that no individual of education or respectability would even *wish* a state of slavery prolonged.

28. Perfectly so.

29. Most unquestionably preferable under this valuable court, whose judicial conduct has insured them the confidence of all classes.

30. This question can be answered more accurately by the police magistrates of the rural districts; in all cases of minor offences we beg to reconcile the parties, and generally succeed, but we have reason to think that in time to come these courts will have a beneficial effect, and that the jurors will attend without hesitation.

31. Answered by the preceding.

32. Answered in query 29.

33. We have been unable to ascertain this satisfactorily; a good deal of sugar has been made from lands in possession of the labourers.

34. We have not been able to obtain an accurate return on this point, the planters not taking any interest in the question asked of them, and the labourer rather wishing to conceal the fact. We, however, know that the market is generally supplied with poultry and pork from the labourers of the island.

35. There is a great quantity planted, and, with the blessing of God, if the favourable weather continues, we shall have no reason to apprehend scarcity.

36. Exceedingly good, the cultivation extensive. There was considerable drought in the early part of the season, but it has happily been succeeded by very fine rains.

37. There has been a greatly increased demand.

38. The labourer is so improvident and careless of the future, that we much doubt whether he could be made just now to understand the utility of Savings' Banks; such an institution, as well as Friendly Societies, must be greatly to his benefit.

39. As happy under existing circumstances as peasantry can be, if they understand their many and valuable advantages.

40. None.

(Signed)

E. H. MOORE,
R. HENDY,
C. GILL, } Police Magistrates.

QUESTIONS FOR QUARTERLY REPLY, from the Police Magistracy of the Island of BARBADOS.

Between July 1st and September 30th, 1840.

1. WHAT has been the general conduct of the labourers in the parish under your magisterial jurisdiction, since your last quarterly report?

2. Of what particular description of offences do the majority of the cases brought before you consist?

3. Is there any want of good feeling between the labourers and their employers; and if so, to what cause do you attribute it?

4. Are you of opinion that the common interests of the employers and labourers will gradually tend, in the altered condition of colonial society, to the establishment of a good understanding between those classes, without the aid of external intervention?

5. Do the labourers perform their work willingly; and if not, to what cause do you ascribe it?

6. What are the working hours generally in use, in your parish?

7. Is task work generally resorted to in your parish? if not, does the objection lie with the masters or the labourers?

8. What is the ordinary rate of wages, and how are the labourers paid in the reaping season as well as in the other months?

9. Are the labourers generally supplied with lodging and a spot of cultivable land upon the estates on which they may engage to work? if so, upon what terms?

10. Is the occupation of the house, and the privilege of planting the piece of ground attached to it, mutually understood as forming a set-off against the payment of the full daily value of the labourer's work; or is the rent of the house and land a distinct charge, having no reference to the estate duty performed by the labourer?

11. What is the general practice pursued in your parish in hiring labourers? are they engaged simply to perform day labour, which engagement is only binding for one day? or do they usually enter into verbal or written agreements for any special term,—say weekly, monthly, or yearly;

14. Has the disallowance of the island laws, regulating the relations between masters and servants, and providing for the suppression of vagrancy, operated to the relief of the labouring population?
15. Have you been called upon to investigate complaints, on account of the undue occupation of houses or lands by labourers, from the plantations on which they have been working? if so, where does the fault generally exist; in the employers, the labourers, or both?
16. Are you of opinion that any sensible diminution in the number of agricultural labourers in your parish has taken place since the 1st August, 1838?
17. Have many labourers returned to work on properties from which they removed on the 1st of August, 1838, or subsequently; and do you consider the labourers in general attached to the estates on which they have been born and brought up?
18. To what kind of employment do those persons who have abandoned agricultural labour usually betake themselves?
19. Has emigration to any considerable extent occurred among the labourers of your parish; if so, specify the number, and state to what cause you are disposed to attribute this novel propensity on their part?
20. From your knowledge of the character and feelings of the Barbados peasantry, do you conclude that their emigration has been spontaneous or otherwise?
21. What are the ages, generally speaking, of the emigrants from your parish; and of which of the three classes of males, females, and children, have the majority of emigrants consisted?
22. Are you of opinion there is a surplus population in this island, and that a large proportion of labourers might be spared without disadvantage, for the benefit of colonies where labour is comparatively scarce?
23. What is the condition of the children of the labourers, and how are they supported?
24. What facilities does your parish supply for education and religious instruction? Is the attendance at church and in the schools equal to the accommodation?
25. Are the children readily employed for hire by the estates on which the parents are located; if not, is this attributable to the disinclination of the employers to hire the services of the children, or to any indisposition on the part of the parents to train them to agricultural pursuits?
26. Do the labourers appear to take any interest in the complexional distinctions between the white, coloured, or black classes of inhabitants?
27. Have you perceived any desire on the part of the authorities or gentry of the country to interfere with the rights of freedom, acquired under the abolition of apprenticeship by the labouring population, or virtually to retain them in a prolonged state of slavery?
28. Are the labourers fully aware of the existence of the Assistant Court of Appeal?
29. Whether do you consider the judicial system obtaining since the creation of that tribunal, or that prevailing during the general employment of the late special magistrates, most conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition?
30. Are the labourers fully aware of the institution of Courts of Reconciliation in this island; if so, do they cheerfully attend when summoned as jurors, and do they evince an interest in the proceedings?
31. Have you had many opportunities of bringing those tribunals into operation for the adjustment of their differences; and are you of opinion that their permanent establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes?
32. Whether do you consider the judicial system obtaining since the creation of the Court of Appeal, or that prevailing during the general employment of the late special magistrates, most conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition?
33. What quantity of sugar has been made this season in your parish, by proprietors, for the labourers attached thereto, and what amount of money has the same realized?
34. What quantity of stock are the labourers upon the estate in your parish now possessed of?
35. Is such a quantity of ground provisions, corn, &c., now planted, as will, in your opinion, preclude the possibility of a recurrence of the scarcity threatened in the earlier part of 1839?
36. What are the prospects of the ensuing crop, and what the general state of cultivation? Has the season been favourable or otherwise?
37. Are you aware that there has been, since the abolition of apprenticeship, a greatly increased demand from the labouring population for the luxuries of life, such as wine, articles of dress, &c. &c.?
38. Are you of opinion that savings' banks and friendly societies would be beneficial to the labouring classes, and be contributed to by them; if so, by what means do you conceive that such institutions may be best promoted?
39. On comparing their situation with that of the labouring classes in other portions of the British dominions, do you consider the labourers of Barbados a happy peasantry as at present circumstanced?
40. Have you any suggestions to make, or any practical measures to recommend, for the benefit of the labouring population in particular, or of this community in general?

ANSWERS.

No. 1.—*Parish of St. Philip.*

1. Submission to the laws, and much more regular in their work.
2. Chiefly petty thefts, and assaults and batteries.
3. The feeling between the labourers and employers has vastly improved since my last quarterly report.
4. I am confident that the common interests of both parties would tend sooner to the establishment of a good understanding if there was no external intervention.
5. Upon the majority of estates in this parish they do; and on those where they do not, I attribute it entirely to injudicious management.
6. I may say that task work is now generally adopted, which the labourers generally finish in seven hours per day.
7. I beg to refer to my last answer.
8. From two bits to a quarter of a dollar, which is paid weekly.

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9. They are generally supplied with a house and a spot of land, for which they are expected to work regularly five days per week ; if not they pay as a rent one bit per day when absent.
10. It is not generally, but upon some estates it is a distinct charge, having reference to the estate duty performed by the labourer.
11. The general practice is, "that they are engaged to perform day labour, which engagement is binding for that day," their agreements are all verbal, therefore no records are lodged in my office.
12. They always prefer verbal to written agreements.
13. Litigiously disposed.
14. I am of opinion that they have been.
15. I have had applications, but by seeing both parties, have arranged the matter amicably ; there is fault on both sides.
16. A great many quitted some months ago as emigrants, but they have returned in large numbers.
17. They have generally returned, and I consider they are attached to the estates on which they have been born and brought up.
18. To huckstering, &c.
19. Emigration to a very great extent has occurred in this parish to the amount of several hundreds, which I attribute to the seduction and crafty wiles of emigration agents.
20. I conclude "their emigration has not been spontaneous."
21. All ages, but chiefly the efficient labourers, not confining it to either particular class.
22. I am of opinion there is not a surplus population of agricultural labourers, and therefore they could not be spared without great disadvantage.
23. Anything but good, they are supported by their parents.
24. The facilities in this parish for education and religious instruction are numerous, and the attendance equal to the accommodation.
25. They would be readily employed, but their parents are not disposed to train them up to agricultural pursuits.
26. None whatever.
27. None whatever.
28. They are.
29. I consider the present judicial system most conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition.
30. They are ; and attend cheerfully when summoned, and they evince great interest in them.
31. Wherever I have had an opportunity, I have done so, and am of opinion that the permanent establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes.
32. This is not the season for making sugar.
33. A vast number ; but the exact quantity I do not know, and have found it impossible to obtain.
34. Provisions are abundant, and I have no apprehension of a scarcity.
35. Much better than the last year, as the season has been more favourable.
36. There has been a great increased demand for the luxuries of life.
37. I am of opinion that both would be beneficial to the labouring classes ; and I conceive that the institution of friendly societies would be best promoted by the clergy in each parish.
38. I consider the peasantry of Barbados happy, and far more so on comparing their situation with that of the labouring classes in other portions of the British dominions.
39. I have none.

(Signed) P. L. APPLEWHAITE, Police Magistrate.

No. 2.—Parish of St. James.

1. The conduct of the labourers in this parish (on the whole) has been very good since my last quarterly report.
2. The majority of offences consists of assaults and batteries, with a few cases of debts and petty thefts.
3. There is at present a mutual good feeling subsisting between labourers and employers in this parish.
4. I am of opinion that the common interests of employers and labourers being inseparably connected, do not require the aid of external intervention for promoting a good understanding between the parties.
5. The labourers at the present time seem to perform their work willingly ; the cause of the contrary event occasionally happening, may generally be traced to the want of proper management on the property where it occurs.
6. The working hours are generally from six to nine o'clock, a.m., and from ten a.m. to four p.m.
7. Task work is not much resorted to, the objection lies with employers, who generally find the work (from being hurried) badly done.
8. The rate of wages varies at present from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6½d. ; and in the reaping season, from 1s. 6½d. to 1s. 10½d. per diem.
9. The labourers are always, or at least in most cases, supplied with a house and a small piece of cultivable land.
10. I should presume from the fact of the labourers readily obtaining 1s. 6½d. per day when working abroad, and his only getting 1s. 3d. when working on the property on which his house and land are situated, that the occupation of the house and the privilege of planting the land attached to it, is meant (if not understood) as forming a set-off against the payment of the full value of the labourer's daily work, remarking at the same time, that the annual difference of the wages which I will suppose to be the rent, is a low price for the comfort which the labourer's house and land generally afford him.
11. The labourers in this parish are simply engaged to perform day labour, which engagements I should consider only binding for one day, but the knowledge that if they do not work steadily and continuously, that they would not be allowed to occupy their houses on the property, generally induces them to remain settled on one estate.
12. The labourers are very averse to agreements of any sort.
13. They are most litigiously disposed, resorting to law on most frivolous grounds.
14. The new island law regulating the relations between masters and servants, has never to the present

time been acted on in this parish, proprietors and managers finding the plans which they were forced to adopt on the disallowance of the former act, to succeed very well, deem it impolitic to run any risk of disturbing the good order and tranquillity which at present prevail by making any alteration in their system of management. The Act for the suppression of vagrancy has also not been acted on, but cannot fail to operate as a protection to the industrious labourer.

15. I have not been called on to investigate complaints of unlawful occupation of houses and lands, by, or ejection of labourers from, the plantations on which they have been working.

16. A very sensible diminution in the number of agricultural labourers took place immediately after the termination of apprenticeship.

17. Great numbers, or nearly all the labourers, have returned to the estates which they left on the first August, 1838, or shortly after; and I consider that in general they are much attached to the places where they have been born and brought up.

18. Those persons who abandon agriculture usually betake themselves to domestic employments, and some to carpenters, shoemakers, and tailors' trades, &c. &c.

19. I have granted no certificates to persons desirous of emigrating during the last quarter.

20. From my knowledge of the character and feelings of the Barbados peasantry, I consider their emigration to be the results of the gross deceptions practised by emigration agents and their emissaries, by holding out promises which they never realize, making engagements which they know are not valid, and representations of the correctness of which in their infant state of education, it would be unnatural to suppose the Barbados labourer could form any idea.

22. I am of opinion that so far from there being a surplus of labouring population in this island, that no labourers could be spared without decided disadvantage.

23. The condition of the children of the labourers is happy at present; in this parish they are entirely supported by their parents, and the greater part are brought up in great idleness.

24. My parish affords a large school and plenty of accommodation in a church and chapel; the attendance at both is equal to, but does not exceed, the accommodation afforded.

25. The children would be most readily employed on every estate on which their parents are located, but the most decided aversion is evinced by them to train their children to agricultural pursuits.

26. Labourers appear to take little interest in the complexional difference between the white, coloured, or black classes of inhabitants. As masters or employers, I should say they decidedly prefer the former.

27. So far from the authorities or gentry of the island wishing to interfere with the rights of freedom of the labouring population, or wishing virtually to retain them in a state of slavery, every opportunity is seized to point out to them their new, improved, and happy condition.

28. The labourers are fully aware of the existence of, and the advantages afforded them by, the Court of Appeal, and immediately after my decision in any case is made known, the right of appeal from it is fully explained to them.

29. I am of opinion that the advantages afforded by the Court of Appeal renders the present judicial system more conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their "free condition," than that existing under the late special magistrates.

30. The labourers are gradually becoming aware of the institution of Courts of Reconciliation; in most cases they cheerfully attend when summoned as jurors, and evince much interest in the proceedings.

31. I have had many opportunities of bringing these tribunals into operation for the adjustment of differences, and am of opinion that their permanent establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes.

32. Answered by No. 29.

33. I have used my utmost endeavours to obtain an accurate account of the quantity of sugar made by the proprietors of estates for labourers attached thereto, but have found it impossible to get a correct statement; by some it has been refused, by others it has been promised but never forwarded; from my own observation I should say very little has been made, their crops, in common with most estates in this parish, having failed from the excessive dry season.

34. Since my last report the labourers in this parish have paid more attention to the raising of stock, but the exact quantity cannot be ascertained.

35. There is no reason to dread a recurrence of the scarcity of provisions threatened in the earlier part of 1839.

36. The prospects of the ensuing crop are better than the last year, the cultivation has been good, and the season more favourable.

37. There has been, since the abolition of apprenticeship, a greatly increased demand from the labouring population for the luxuries of life, such as wine, articles of dress, &c. &c.

38. Savings' Banks and Friendly Societies would no doubt be beneficial. One of the latter has been established by the rector of this parish, and is as yet well supported.

39. I was brought up in England, and have no hesitation in saying that the peasantry of Barbados, as at present circumstanced, is as happy as that of England, exclusive of the advantages afforded the former by the difference of climate.

40. An Act to establish a lunatic asylum.

(Signed)

FRANCIS THORNHILL, Police Magistrate.

No. 3.—Parish of St. George.

1. Quiet in general.

2. Of assaults and batteries.

3. I have observed no want of good feeling between the industrious labourers and their employers.

4. I am of that opinion.

5. They do upon the majority of estates in this parish; and when they do not, the cause may be ascribed to external intervention with the labourers.

6. From sunrise to four o'clock p.m., daily, an hour of which space is allowed for breakfast; Saturdays commonly excepted.

7. Not generally: the labourers prefer task work, but the masters or employers have, especially of late, adopted either task work, or nine hours' work per day, according to occasion.

8. From 20 to 25 cents a day in money, by weekly payments throughout the year generally.

9. They are, upon the usual terms of labouring upon the estates, on which they may engage to

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work five days in each week (sickness and other unforeseen accidents excepted), besides the ordinary rate of daily wages.

10. It is not; upon some estates in this parish the rent of land attached to, or detached from, the house is a distinct charge, without reference to the estate duty performed by the labourer.

11. Labourers located upon the several estates in this parish usually enter into verbal agreements to labour five days successively in each week; but unattached labourers are engaged simply to perform day labour, which engagement is only binding for one day; no records of this nature are lodged in my office.

12. They are disposed generally to prefer verbal to written agreements.

13. I am of opinion that they are, especially the better sort.

14. It has beyond doubt.

15. I have. The fault generally exists in both.

16. I am of that opinion.

17. Very few within my knowledge. I do not consider they are in general.

18. To such as they prefer, or can obtain.

19. It has not occurred beyond the extent of nine persons from this parish.

20. I conclude that their emigration has been spontaneous.

21. From the ages of 19 to 28 years. The majority of emigrants have been males.

22. I am of opinion that there is, but that no proportion of industrious agricultural labourers could be spared from this island without serious disadvantage to the growth of the staple commodities of the soil.

23. Very poor in general; they are chiefly supported by their parents.

24. I do not know.

25. They are.

26. They do.

27. I have not: the present administration of the government of this island is the greatest security for the rights of freedom.

28. I believe they are quite so.

29. I consider that both systems have worked well for, but that of the Assistant Court of Appeal has been the most conducive to, the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition.

30. In this parish they are.

31. I have. I am of that opinion.

32. I consider the magisterial system established by the creation of the Assistant Court of Appeal most conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition.

33. I do not know.

34. I do not exactly know; but, in addition to pigs, goats, and poultry, which they formerly kept, many labourers are now possessed of cattle and horses.

35. I believe there is. I have heard no apprehensions of scarcity recently expressed by the planters of this parish.

36. Unfavourable in this parish.

37. I am.

38. I am, but cannot suggest the means whereby such institutions may be best promoted.

39. I do most sincerely.

40. I have not.

(Signed) _____ WILLIAM GRIFFITH, Police Magistrate.

No. 4.—*Parish of St. John.*

1. The general conduct of the labourers of this parish since my last quarterly report has been peaceable; and since the spirit of emigration has subsided amongst them, they have become more settled and steady in their habits.

2. Petty assaults.

3 and 4. In reply to these questions I have nothing to remark differing from my reply to them in report of 31st March.

5. The labourers generally in this parish perform their work willingly.

6. See replies to questions Nos. 3 and 4.

7. Task work is not generally resorted to, in consequence of the negligent performance of their work by labourers under that system.

8, 9, and 10. See report of 30th June.

11, 12, 13, and 14. See replies to questions Nos. 3 and 4.

15. I have in some few instances been called upon to investigate complaints on account of the undue occupation of their lodging by the labourer, and the fault has been found to exist with the labourer.

16, 17, and 18. See replies to Nos. 3 and 4.

19. Emigration has not occurred to any extent in this parish; only two labourers have left the island to my knowledge.

20. See No. 19 of report of 30th June.

21. The two persons who have left this parish since my last quarterly report were male adults, who informed me that they were going to Demerara to look after some members of their family who had gone thither.

22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29. See replies to questions Nos. 3 and 4.

30. The labourers are, I believe, fully aware of the establishment of Courts of Reconciliation in this parish; they willingly attend as jurors, and take a lively interest in the proceedings.

31. These tribunals are in operation in this parish fortnightly, when the differences arising amongst all classes are frequently referred for arbitration. I am of opinion that their permanent establishment will be productive of general good to the labouring classes.

32. A repetition of question 29.

33. This question is not applicable to the season included in this quarter.

34. I have every reason to believe that the labourers are acquiring increase of wealth in stock, &c. Of the exact quantity since my quarterly report (ending 1st January last), I have had no means in my power of forming a correct estimate.

35. See replies to Nos. 3 and 4.

36. I am of opinion that the agricultural prospects in this parish justify the expectations of an average crop for the ensuing season. The growing season has been interrupted by short intervals of severe drought, which has been unfavourable to the sugar crop. The general state of cultivation is good.

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37, 38, 39, and 40. See replies to Nos. 3 and 4.

(Signed)

HENRY PILGRIM, Police Magistrate.

No. 5.—*Parish of Christ Church.*

1. Generally speaking their conduct is good.
2. Petty thefts and breaches of the peace, but more particularly the latter.
3. From my observations, I should say that generally there is no want of good feeling between the labourers and their employers. With some of the labourers on some of the estates (a few) the feeling is not so good; this is to be attributed to a strange notion which they entertain respecting their agreements with their employers; they look for a scrupulous observance of the agreements on the part of their employers, but are regardless of them on their own part; this is particularly exemplified in reference to the terms on which they hold their cottages; the cottage is given rent free by way of retainer for steady and continuous labour on hire when in health, with the understanding, that if they work on other properties without the leave of their employers, they are to pay rent for such day so absent; although they readily enter into such engagements, yet they refuse to pay rent when incurred by a violation of the agreement.
4. The return of some of the labourers who emigrated to British Guiana under delusive prospects held out to them by private emigration agents of bettering their condition, having in a great measure checked emigration during the latter part of the present quarter (four persons only having applied for certificates this month), I am induced to hope that they will become more settled, and that a good and lasting understanding will be established amongst employers and labourers without the aid of external intervention, the common interests of both requiring that it should be so.
5. The labourers when employed on other properties than those on which they are domiciled, work more willingly than they do at home, which is to be attributed to the circumstance of their receiving on those occasions extra supplies of refreshments.
6. The working hours are generally from 6 to 10, and from 11 to 4 o'clock.
7. Task work not answering the expectations of employers, is almost abandoned by them.
8. The general rate of wages is two bits per day for first class labourers, the other classes in proportion. During the crop, cane cutters are paid a quarter dollar per day, and the manufacturers three bits.
9. Labourers domiciled on properties are supplied with good houses, and generally with a spot of land (about a quarter of an acre) as a garden, free of rent.
10. The general understanding between the labourers and their employers for the privilege of enjoying the houses and land given to the former, is that for the wages agreed on they will work on the property of their employers when required. If they give their services to other properties against the will of their employers, they are then charged rent at the rate of one bit per day for each day spent in the service of strangers.
11. No contracts of service have ever been lodged in my office, nor am I aware that any have been entered into between labourers and employers; the general practice in use, leaving each party free to act as he may think fit.
12. The labourers are opposed to written agreements.
13. The labourers as a body are kindly disposed to each other.
14. The renewal of the island laws, regulating the relations of masters and servants, cannot fail to operate in favour of the latter, in protecting them against summary ejectments; but, as regards the former, from the decided objection which the labourers hold to contracts for service, it gives them no assurance of a supply of labour, when wanted, from those domiciled on their properties.
15. During this quarter I have been called upon in one instance to investigate the undue occupation of premises: this was the case of a woman domiciled on an estate, who refused to labour for the property, or to give up the house she occupied.
16. No great diminution has taken place.
17. In many cases the labourers have returned to, and again located themselves on, the properties they had left.
18. To domestic service, trades, and huckstering.
19. During the present quarter I have granted fifty-four emigration certificates (of these one was for a white person), being a decrease of seven as compared with the previous quarter; and when I consider that in the present month only four certificates have been applied for, it furnishes me with the pleasing hope that the labourers are beginning to think and to act for themselves, and that they will no longer be made the dupes and victims of avaricious men, who care not for their sufferings when removed to another land, so they can enrich themselves by the head-money they obtain as the reward of their nefarious traffic.
20. From my knowledge of the character and feelings of the Barbados peasantry, and their strong attachment to their native land, I feel perfectly assured that their emigration is by no means spontaneous.
21. The ages, generally speaking, are from 20 to 35, and the majority males.
22. It cannot be said that we have a surplus population requiring to be relieved by emigration.
23. Parents appear more anxious about the welfare of their children in training them to habits of industry, and their aversion to agricultural pursuits has greatly abated.
24. In this parish we have a church, four chapels, and seven public schools in operation, and a chapel on a very large scale in course of erection in the most populous district of the parish. The accommodation which these buildings afford is greater than the attendance at them.
25. Children are readily employed for hire when the parents do not object, and I am happy to say their indisposition to train them to agricultural pursuits is by no means as great as it was.
26. The labourers do take an interest in complexional distinctions, and their preference, as to confidence in the respective classes, is in favour of the whites.
27. Certainly not.
28. They are.
29. The present judicial system, conducted as it is under the supervision of this tribunal, is more

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conducive to the welfare of the labouring population than that which prevailed during the general employment of the late special magistrates.

30. The institution of Courts of Reconciliation is fully known to the labourers, who readily attend when summoned as jurors, and they seem to take an interest in the proceedings.

31. I still continue to hold Courts of Reconciliation, and as in every case I have been successful in adjusting differences, I am of opinion that their permanent establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes.

32. See answer to 29.

33. From the reasons set forth in my last report I am unable to answer this question.

34. From the reasons set forth in my last report I am unable to answer this question.

35. Provisions are plentiful, and there is no reason to apprehend a scarcity of food.

36. The season has not been favourable for the sugar crop, the rains having fallen partially, and I am sorry to learn that the crops will be very short on some of the estates in this parish.

37. There has been a greatly increased demand on the part of the labourers for the luxuries of life since freedom.

38. Savings' Banks and Friendly Societies must prove beneficial to the labouring classes. The latter, which are established in this parish, have worked much good in improving their conduct and morals; and as they readily contribute to them and feel a pride in becoming members, I have no doubt they would lend their support to promote Savings' Banks, as the surest means of securing their surplus earnings; and I have no doubt that a legislative enactment to authorize their committees to make proper rules and regulations for the better government and guidance of the same, to impose such fines and forfeitures upon the members who offend such rules, as shall be just and necessary for duly enforcing the same, would tend very much to benefit the said societies.

39. I think they may be regarded as the happiest peasantry in the world.

40. I have no further suggestions to make than those contained in my report of March last, in answer to this question.

(Signed)

JOSEPH P. EVELYN, Police Magistrate.

No. 6.—*Parish of St. Peter.*

My "Answers relative to the working of the free system in Barbados," for the quarter ending on the 30th day of last September, are essentially the same as those for the preceding quarter.

My last report, in answer to the 19th question, states that two hundred and fifty-two persons had received certificates of emigration. Eighteen persons have since received certificates, making a total of two hundred and seventy, exclusive of fifty-nine children, to the 30th day of September last.

(Signed)

J. C. B. SCANTLEBURY, Police Magistrate.

No. 7.—*Parish of St. Thomas.*

In answer to the questions relative to the working of the free system in this island, for the quarter ending the 30th September, I have the honour to state that I see no reason to alter or add anything to my last report on this subject, from the 1st to 89th question.

40. Emigration appears to be rapidly on the decline; for only five persons have applied during the quarter for certificates, none of whom I believe have quitted. The prospect of reaping a good crop next year is at this time very cheering to the agricultural body, although the growth of the canes was at first much retarded by dry weather at the early part of the year.

(Signed)

J. CAREW, Police Magistrate.

No. 8.—*Parish of St. Joseph.*

1. Since my appointment I have discovered but little disposition on the part of the labourers of this parish to restlessness or disorder. They appear to be settling down into steady and industrious habits.

2. They chiefly consist of small debts, with some few cases of assaults, and still fewer larcenies.

3. I regret to think that there does not at this moment exist that entire reciprocity of good feeling between employer and labourer which every well-wisher of both parties must anxiously covet; and I would attribute it in a great measure to the dissatisfaction produced in the minds of the labourers by the agents for emigration, which has again roused for a time those lurking suspicions with which they were once wont to view every act of their employers.

4. That the natural course of things will at length bring about a perfect understanding between employers and labourers, I cannot for a moment doubt, and I may be justified in saying, that the elements for effecting this end are already evident. The interests of the employer teaches the necessity of liberal conciliation and forbearance, whilst the labourer is not less alive to the immunities and advantages which approved conduct must obtain.

5. There seems to be some objection to the length of time required for working, but I should say without sufficient reason.

6. On some estates from 6 till 10, and from 11 till 4 o'clock; on others from 6 till 9, and from 10 till 1, and from 3 till 6 o'clock; in either case completing nine hours. I am not aware of any other system prevailing.

7. Task work is now generally objected to, chiefly by employers, in consequence of the very imperfect way in which it is for the most part performed. There can be no other fair objection raised against it.

8. The ordinary rate of wages for a located labourer is two bits per day for nine hours' work, with rations of rum and molasses; in the reaping season the same rate obtains, unless they work more than nine hours, when it becomes either two bits and a half, or three bits, accordingly. There is in addition to labourers thus procured, a very considerable body of effective labourers throughout the island, with scarcely any fixed abode, who are not unfrequently called in to supply any deficiency. These are invariably paid higher wages. I should estimate the value of their day's work in money and perquisites at not less than four bits per day.

9. The located labourers are supplied with a house, and in most cases a quarter of an acre of land, to be tenants of both so long as they give their continuous service to the estate.

10. It seems to be the object of the employer, for the sake of procuring constant labour, to remit the entire rent of the house, so long as the labourer is regular at work; but that there is the under-

standing that a rent is fixed is evident, from the charge of a bit or more when the labourer is inconstant, except in the case of sickness, or other reasonable cause of absence. The rent of the land is an invariable charge whenever it is allowed.

11. The labourers individually never engage for any work beyond the day. They appear to regard contracts with considerable suspicion.

12. To every sort of agreements they manifest great dislike. I have not observed any preference in favour of one to the other.

13. As far as their present social order admits, there is more mutual confidence and harmony existing than might be expected.

14. The operation of the laws alluded to must eventually be beneficial, but it is difficult to determine as to the relief already afforded.

15. I have not been called upon to investigate any complaints of this nature.

16. I am not of opinion that any very visible diminution has taken place.

17. Many have returned; I believe the force of old associations to weigh with them equally as with their more civilized brethren.

18. To idleness, or avocations very nearly allied to it.

19. Emigration has not occurred to any great extent. From April to 30th September, certificates have been granted to seventy individuals. The seductive falsehoods that have been insidiously circulated by emigration agents, respecting advantages to be derived in the "magnificent colony," operating on ignorant and restless minds, and that propensity of our nature to believe things to be as one would wish them, producing by contrast captiousness and discontent, has induced them, sometimes on the slightest grounds, sometimes without any offence whatever given, to hazard the trial of emigration.

20. They have been morally bound by the very great inducements held out by agents to try the experiments by which they have been such sufferers.

21. The majority of emigrants have been males, rather under the middle age.

22. That Barbados contains an immense population for its size there is no doubt; but as the cultivation of sugar requires, and can never be carried on successfully but with, a redundant population, I should say we have none to spare.

23. The prospects of the rising generation are not most favourable; while the one half are almost vagrants, the others are sent to the most inefficient schools, where the pockets of the unconscious parent become a prey to the unqualified teacher.

24. There are two schools where the attendance is by no means equal to the accommodation. The reverse, however, is the case at the parish church and chapel, where the accommodation is hardly equal to the general attendance.

25. Children might always be hired on the estates, and many are employed; but there is a great indisposition on the part of many parents to train them to agriculture.

26. Another generation, and all distinctions of complexion will have passed away; but I would exclude no colour from feelings of prejudice on this point.

27. Whatever may have been the feelings of interested parties at the time of abolition, whose hopes and fortunes were all dependent on the success of that great experiment, I can now with confidence report that the planters, no less than the liberated slaves, hail with delight the blessings of freedom conferred on their land; and whilst rejoicing that the foul stain is for ever blotted out and forgotten, are with laudable zeal striving to promote every measure designed for the preservation of good order, and the security and maintenance of their equal rights.

28. The existence of this court has been frequently made known to them.

29. From the confidence reposed by the labouring population in the present judicial system, and the end which it so admirably answers, I cannot suppose it inferior to that obtaining under the late special magistrates, whatever it might have been.

30. They are becoming more generally aware of it; but it is a tax on the time of the jurors, for which, as there is no remuneration, this office may become unpopular. They do evince a very considerable interest in the proceedings.

31. I have not had many opportunities of witnessing their operation; but from what I have seen I have been led to form the most favourable opinion of their ultimate success: there may be some difficulties in the way, but such only as may be over-ruled by practice.

32. I believe the Court of Appeal to be a most salutary check on the decisions and judgments of the local magistrates, and consequently more likely to insure for the labouring population that impartial justice which might not have been so obvious under the special magistracy without appeal.

33. Since the last quarterly return, there has been no sugar made in the island.

34. This question is scarcely to be answered with accuracy; but having consulted with those competent to give me information, I have learned that I may ascribe as an average in this parish, two sheep and two pigs to each family, and a cow to every six families.

35. I see no reason, from the state of cultivation of the provision grounds, to apprehend any immediate scarcity.

36. The prospects of the crop in this parish are better than for the last two or three years, owing chiefly to improved cultivation; but the weather in the early part of the year has not been so favourable as might have been desired, and the failing of crops in other parts of the island, in consequence, will be considerable.

37. This fondness for undue luxuries has ever been a characteristic of the lower classes in this colony, and I have every reason to believe that with greater means for obtaining them, they have not abandoned their favourite passion.

38. Savings' Banks and Friendly Societies might both of them in their respective ways be of considerable benefit to the labouring classes. They would be guarantees for those funds hoarded by frugal economy, and not unfrequently a prey to the rapacity of others.

39. I see no reason to think that the Barbados peasantry may not be one of the happiest I have ever met with in my various wanderings, and I believe them to be so.

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No. 9.—*Parish of St. Lucy.*

1. Indolent, but less disorderly than at the time of making my last report, although not less litigious amongst themselves.
2. Assault and battery, theft, debt, and injury to property.
3. The good feeling has not improved since my last report, and I attribute it to the seditious advice given to the labourers from certain incendiary characters who have nothing in the community at stake, and are opposed to everything like "rule, order, and authority."
4. I believe the interest of employers and labourers would be established without the aid of external intervention, if there were no inflammatory newspapers published in the island.
5. They have not improved in this respect since my last report, and I ascribe it to their natural indolence.
6. Nine hours per day out of crop time, performed when most convenient to the labourers; and, during the crop, extra payment for any work done over nine hours.
7. Task work is now generally preferred, both by employers and labourers.
8. Two bits per day, and, in the reaping season, a half bit additional per hogshead to all employed about the mill and boiling house, as an equivalent for any time spent beyond nine hours in the manufacture of sugar.
9. The labourers are generally supplied with lodgings, and the great majority of them have comfortable houses gratuitously; they have also, on most estates, a quarter of an acre of cultivable land each, and no charge made for rent of it, except on days that they absent themselves from estates.
10. When the labourers bestow their labour on other estates than those on which they have houses or land, they are generally charged from half a bit to one bit for each day's absence, but not otherwise.
11. No contracts for work have ever been made. In giving task work, the employers and labourers are generally guided by the scale of labour established at the commencement of the apprenticeship, in 1834.
12. They have an objection to being restrained by any agreements, but particularly written.
13. Not on a happy footing, and very litigiously disposed.
14. Has not yet produced the desired effect, no contract being entered into, and a spirit of vagrancy seeming to influence the labouring class.
15. In no case since my last report.
16. Some weeks ago a diminution did take place, but not to any great extent; and, latterly, emigration from this parish seems to have entirely ceased.
17. They remain very unsettled, and are constantly removing from place to place.
18. Hawking and peddling, infesting the towns, and passing themselves off as domestics.
19. Two hundred and seventy-three persons have obtained certificates of emigration from this parish, many have returned to it, and others are likely to do so.
20. I certainly conceive that their emigration has not been spontaneous, and that they have been urged to it by the publications in that mischievous journal the *Liberal*, and the machinations of a man called "Thomas Day," of British Guiana.
21. Two hundred and nine males, and sixty-four females, have obtained certificates for emigration. Adults and able-bodied persons chiefly emigrate.
22. I am of opinion that agricultural labourers cannot be spared.
23. Their condition is good, and they are supported by their parents, but mostly out of the means of estates on which they live.
24. The parish only supplies one large school-room; there are numerous private schools where education may be acquired very cheaply; the attendance at church and in the schools is equal to the accommodation.
25. Very few capable of doing anything are allowed by their parents to remain on any estates during the day; the parents have a decided objection to training them to agricultural pursuits, and they are generally apprenticed to trades, going to school, or wasting their time in idleness.
26. None.
27. None.
28. They are fully aware of it.
29. Happier under this tribunal, being less restrained than during the apprenticeship.
30. They are fully aware of it, attend very readily, and seem to take a great interest in it.
31. I have had weekly and continued opportunities for several months past, and I think that their permanent establishment will be attended with the most beneficial results to the working classes.
32. The present system I conceive most conducive to their happiness and welfare.
33. Very little sugar has been manufactured in this parish this year for the labourers; attributable to two causes,—firstly, the very unfavourable weather experienced the last year; and secondly, their having turned their attention latterly more to the cultivation of provisions than canes.
34. On all estates they keep sheep, pigs, goats, and poultry, to a great extent, and on some they possess horned cattle.
35. Provisions are not so abundantly planted as formerly, in consequence of labour being more scarce; a dry year may occasion a great want of them.
36. The prospect of the ensuing crop is unfavourable, and general cultivation bad. The season has been very unfavourable.
37. I am aware that there has been, especially for articles of dress.
38. I do not think that Savings' Banks would be contributed to by the labourers. The Friendly Societies now being established are likely to do good.
39. In comparing their situation with that of the peasantry of England, and particularly that of

No. 10.—*Parish of St. Andrew.*

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1. They are still quarrelsome and litigious.
2. The same as my last report.
3. The same as my last report.
4. The same as my last report.
5. The same as my last report.
6. The same as my last report.
7. The same as my last report.
8. They have advanced to three bits per day for occasional labourers; those who are located, continue to be paid at the rate formerly reported.
9. The same as my last report.
10. The same as my last report.
11. The same as my last report.
12. The same as my last report.
13. The same as my last report.
14. The same as my last report, except that I have no complaints to make against any vagrant.
15. The same as my last report.
16. The facility of obtaining labour has been much greater than usual in this parish during the past month; the rate of wages demanded is three bits per day, beside rum and molasses.
17. The same as my last report.
18. The same as my last report.
19. Only six persons have received certificates for emigration during the past quarter, and no application has been made for that purpose since the 3rd of September; all who have ever applied and complied with the law have received their certificates. The whole number who have taken certificates during the present year is twenty-six, many of these I know have not been away, some who did go have returned, and their application to return to the home which they deserted has been admitted; some few whom I dissuaded from making this experiment have called on me and expressed their thanks for being spared the difficulties which their friends and relatives report they encountered in British Guiana. The emigration from this parish has been almost confined to those estates bordering on the parish of St. Peter, where Mr. Hoppe kept an emigration depôt.
20. I do not think the emigration among the population of this parish was spontaneous, being aware of undue and improper means being resorted to for effecting it.
21. I have already stated the total number of emigrants from this parish to have been twenty-six persons,—nine men, eight women, four lads, and five children; some of those did not leave the island, although I have reason to believe some others have been clandestinely conveyed away without any reference to me.
22. The same as my former replies.
23. The same as my last report.
24. The same as my last report, except that St. Simon's Chapel has been completed and reopened.
25. The same as my last report.
26. I have not witnessed any such feeling in this parish.
27. I feel assured no such desire exists, and am positive that it is not exercised with the labourers in this parish.
28. The same as my last report.
29. The same as my last report.
30. The same as my last report.
31. The amount of trivial causes of complaint having declined, I have not held one of these courts during the present quarter, as with the increase of confidence between the labourers and myself, I can generally arrange their misunderstandings to their mutual satisfaction without litigation or expense; my opinion of the utility of them is by no means diminished.
32. The same as my last report.
33. The same as my last report.
34. I have not been able to obtain any specific information on this subject, but I am aware it is of considerable amount.
35. I am certain there is in this parish.
36. The rains have been scanty and partial, and the season consequently not a favourable one; the cultivation of this parish has considerably improved. The rain during the present month has been more frequent and abundant; the prospects of the ensuing crop promise a much better return generally than the last.
37. The same as my last report.
38. The same as my former report.
39. I think this question is most satisfactorily answered by the emigrants who have returned from British Guiana, determined not to repeat the experiment.
40. In the absence of a contract for service, I think the relation of employer and labourer would be considerably improved, and be rendered more permanent, if the labourers located for continuous service, received an allowance of food from the employer each day that they labour; the experiment has been tried by some, and works successfully; it is true that the labourers generally refused it when first emancipated, subsequent experience and the scarcity of 1839 has produced a different impression with many. The labourers would be decidedly benefited. The present adventitious supply may be interrupted by a variety of circumstances, and the scarcity which would thence ensue would involve the dense population of this island in consequences which it is awful to contemplate; few persons are at present in possession of a sufficiency for the whole of their located population; it will therefore be safest to commence with stock-keepers and such other persons as are located for duties which require them every day. The system of feeding must necessarily be contingent on the supply of labour.

(Signed)

JAMES S. BASCOM, Police Magistrate.

No. 11.—*Parish of Saint Michael.—Rural District.*

1. The conduct of the labourers in the rural district of this parish has been such as generally to give satisfaction.

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2. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
3. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
4. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
5. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
6. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
7. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
8. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
9. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
10. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
11. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
12. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
13. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
14. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
15. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
16. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
17. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
18. The same reply as last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
19. Since my reply to the last quarterly questions, I have, as churchwarden, granted one hundred and six certificates to persons leaving the island as emigrants, and still have reason to believe that the observations then made by me are perfectly correct; the number of emigrants are evidently decreasing, and the reports made by those who have returned, will, I have no doubt, before long, put a stop to emigration to Demerara altogether.
20. I still hold the same opinion as expressed by me in my answer to this question in my last quarterly report.
21. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
22. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
23. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
24. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
25. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
26. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
27. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
28. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
29. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
30. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
31. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
32. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
33. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
34. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
35. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
36. The prospects for the ensuing crop in this parish still continue good, although from the dry weather in July and August the canes have suffered much; the season for the last few weeks has been very favourable; the general state of cultivation is good.
37. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
38. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
39. The same reply as the last quarterly report, ending 30th June.
40. I have nothing particular to add to the remarks made by me in my last quarterly report, ending June 30th.

(Signed)

J. W. SPENCER, Police Magistrate.

No. 12.—Parish of St. Michael, Bridgetown.

1. Generally speaking quiet and orderly, but much inclined to idleness.
2. Of petty thefts, and assaults, and batteries.
3. There is a distrust of their employers produced by constant injudicious remarks made in one of the island journals, and by the delusive promises made to them through emigration agents of bettering their condition in British Guiana.
4. We should sincerely deprecate any external intervention; the interest common to employer and labourer has already produced a better understanding between the parties than formerly, and we are happy to add that understanding is improving.
5. Certainly with more willingness than formerly, and but for the deceitful allurements of emigration agents, there would not be much fault found with their willingness.
6. From seven to ten, and from eleven to four.
7. A good deal of task work is accomplished in this parish, but when objections are made they are usually on the part of the labourer, who is not always inclined to perform a stated quantity of work.
8. Two bits per diem, and an increase of about one-third more during the manufacturing of sugar. Should they be employed beyond the usual time as stated in answer to the sixth query, they receive liberal payment and allowances for such extra labour.
9. So long as they continue to work on the estates on which they are located, they are so supplied, *gratis*, but on many estates when they take their labour therefrom, a charge of rent is made on them by agreement for such house and land, during the period they so remove their labour. Some labourers are actual tenants of an extra portion of land, which they hire at the rate of 7*l.* to 10*l.* per annum.
10. The occupation of the house and privilege of planting and reaping the fruits of the land is generally held out to them as a bonus for continued labour five days in the week, but it usually forms no part of the payment of their daily labour.
11. The labourer is utterly averse to written agreements, or seldom or never enters into any, he usually engages verbally, but for no specified time, and can quit whenever he pleases; of course no record has been lodged in our office.
12. Answered by the preceding.
13. They have but little confidence in each other, and are litigiously inclined; they fly to the law to remedy fancied as well as real grievances.
14. We should say if properly understood the first act would be greatly beneficial to both parties. With regard to the vagrant act, it must be unquestionably so to the public.

15. We have had no such cases before us since last answered; these cases would properly be referred to the magistrate of the rural district.

16. Within this last quarter the evil has greatly remedied itself, and the tide of emigration has not been so powerful as when we answered this question last.

17. In many instances they have so returned; it is only the aged and infirm, and fathers and mothers of large families, who seem attached to the soil they have been bred and born on.

18. Huckstering and petty trading, and as porters, and in employment on board of ships in the bay, in the stowage of sugar, &c., where they get ample payment.

19. Not many agricultural labourers, but some others; we cannot state the exact number; this novel propensity for emigration appears to arise from the specious acts of unprincipled persons, terming themselves "emigration agents," who hold out boons to them certainly never to be realized.

20. Not generally spontaneous, but arising chiefly from the mercenary wiles of emigration adventurers, who impose on the labourer and make him believe he is to reap a golden harvest in Guiana.

21. Few children have left, except some with their parents; the adults are generally of a middle age, and we should say that the males preponderate.

22. We do not think any portion of our agricultural labour could be spared from the island; there is certainly a redundant population in Bridgetown, many of whom could be well spared.

23. Very bad indeed, their parents usually supply their wants and bring them up to idle and bad habits. A great increase in the number of juvenile offenders has taken place since the last return.

24. There are six chapels or licensed places of public worship, besides the cathedral; they altogether will contain about 6,000 persons, and they are scarcely or ever full, therefore we should say there is accommodation; there are eleven public schools well attended, besides many private ones, and these are increasing from the indefatigable zeal and pious exertions of the lord bishop and his clergy, and all in authority, to facilitate moral and religious instruction, and to extend the benefit of education.

25. They would be most readily employed by the owners and managers of estates, but the parents are particularly averse to bring the children up to agricultural labour, or in fact to any proper pursuit; they generally keep them at home for their own purposes.

26. They appear to repose more confidence in the white population, with some few exceptions.

27. The very reverse is the case; we conceive the authorities and gentry are doing all in their power, both by precept and example, to elevate the newly emancipated in the scale of society, and that no individual of education or respectability would even wish a state of slavery to be prolonged.

28. Universally so, and we give them the most particular information on the subject, and afford them every facility to appeal from our decisions.

29. Most unquestionably preferable under this valuable court, who sit publicly in Bridgetown, under the immediate eye of the executive, and who perform their duties zealously for the public weal, and most scrupulously for the welfare of the labourers.

30. The labourers are now fully aware of the benefits to be derived by this institution, and more cheerfully give their attendance than at first; they are becoming quite interested in its proceedings.

31. In Bridgetown, where we act, such courts are of rare occurrence, but we are fully aware from the trial which has been made of them, that they will be of lasting advantage to the working classes in this island.

32. Answered by reply to query 29.

33. Since the reply to this question in our last return, the sugar crop has been over. We stated in that reply that we could not well ascertain this point satisfactorily, but that we were fully aware of the fact that a great deal of sugar had been made for the labourers.

34. This cannot be ascertained, the planter taking but little interest in the return asked of him, and the labourer being averse to have his wealth known. We however know that the labourers raise most of the poultry and pork which supply our markets, and many of them now possess cattle and sheep to some extent.

35. There is; and provision of this nature is now abundant.

36. From the want of rain in the early part of the season, the canes were beginning to be affected, but we have been blessed with fine rains latterly, and if they continue, the crop will be a good one; the cultivation is generally flourishing.

37. There has been a greatly increased demand for all luxuries.

38. We consider such institutions would be beneficial, but it will be difficult to make the labourer understand the value to him of savings' banks; he has, generally speaking, no idea of the morrow; he may better understand the value of friendly societies, and does in fact, as many such are in existence under the superintending care of the clergy, and the labourer is deriving much good from them.

39. Beyond a doubt more happy than the peasantry of Ireland, and taking climate into consideration, better off than that class of persons in England. The diffusion of religious knowledge which is now general, and a better understanding of moral duties and obligations, will soon render the peasant of Barbados as happy and contented as he is in any other portion of the British dominions.

40. None. Let the labourer be left to himself, and not be imposed upon by selfish and designing agitators, all asperities will cease, and things merge into a mutual proper understanding between labourer and employer.

(Signed)

E. H. MOORE,
R. HENDY,
C. GILL, } Police Magistrates.

QUESTIONS FOR QUARTERLY REPLY from the Police Magistracy of the Island of BARBADOS.

Between 1st October and 31st December, 1840.

1. What has been the general conduct of the labourers in the parish under your magisterial jurisdiction, since your last quarterly report?

2. Of what particular description of offences do the majority of the cases brought before you consist?

3. Is there any want of good feeling between the labourers and their employers; and if so, to what cause do you attribute it?

4. Are you of opinion that the common interests of the employers and labourers will gradually

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tend, in the altered condition of colonial society, to the establishment of a good understanding between those classes, without the aid of external intervention?

5. Do the labourers perform their work willingly; and if not, to what cause do you ascribe it?

6. What are the working hours generally in use, in your parish?

7. Is task work generally resorted to in your parish; if not, does the objection lie with the masters or the labourers?

8. What is the ordinary rate of wages; and how are the labourers paid in the reaping season, as well as in other months?

9. Are the labourers generally supplied with lodging and a spot of cultivable land upon the estates on which they may engage to work? if so, upon what terms?

10. Is the occupation of the house, and the privilege of planting the piece of ground attached to it, mutually understood as forming a set-off against the payment of the full daily value of the labourer's work; or is the rent of the house and land a distinct charge, having no reference to the estate duty performed by the labourer?

11. What is the general practice pursued in your parish in hiring labourers? are they engaged simply to perform day labour, which engagement is only binding for one day? or do they usually enter into verbal or written agreements for any specified term,—say weekly, monthly, or yearly; and if so, are any records of their nature lodged in your office?

12. Are the labourers disposed generally to prefer written to verbal agreements?

13. Are the labourers in their general intercourse with each other upon a happy footing or litigiously disposed.

14. Has the renewal of the island laws, regulating the relations between masters and servants, and providing for the suppression of vagrancy, operated to the relief of the labouring population?

15. Have you been called upon to investigate complaints, on account of the undue occupation of houses or lands by labourers, from the plantations on which they have been working,—if so, where does the fault generally exist; in the employers, the labourers, or both?

16. Are you of opinion that any sensible diminution in the number of agricultural labourers in your parish has taken place since the 1st of August, 1836?

17. Have many labourers returned to work on properties from which they removed on the 1st of August, 1838, or subsequently; and do you consider the labourers in general attached to the estates on which they have been born and brought up?

18. To what kind of employment do those persons who have abandoned agricultural labour usually betake themselves?

19. Has emigration to any considerable extent occurred among the labourers of your parish; if so, specify the number, and state to what cause you are disposed to attribute this novel propensity on their part?

20. From your knowledge of the character and feelings of the Barbados peasantry, do you conclude that their emigration has been spontaneous or otherwise?

21. What are the ages, generally speaking, of the emigrants from your parish; and of which of the three classes, of males, females, and children, have the majority of emigrants consisted?

22. Are you of opinion there is a surplus population in this island, and that a large proportion of labourers might be spared without disadvantage, for the benefit of colonies where labour is comparatively scarce?

23. What is the condition of the children of the labourers, and how are they supported?

24. What facilities does your parish supply for education and religious instruction? Is the attendance at church and in the schools equal to the accommodation?

25. Are the children readily employed for hire by the estates on which the parents are located; if not, is this attributable to the disinclination of the employers to hire the services of the children, or to any indisposition on the part of the parents to train them to agricultural pursuits?

26. Do the labourers appear to take any interest in the complexional distinction between the white, coloured, or black classes of inhabitants?

27. Have you perceived any desire on the part of the authorities or gentry of the country to interfere with the rights of freedom, acquired under the abolition of apprenticeship by the labouring population, or virtually to retain them in a prolonged state of slavery?

28. Are the labourers fully aware of the existence of the Assistant Court of Appeal?

29. Whether do you consider the judicial system, obtaining since the creation of that tribunal, or that prevailing during the general employment of the late special magistrates, most conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition?

30. Are the labourers fully aware of the institution of Courts of Reconciliation in this island; if so, do they cheerfully attend when summoned as jurors, and do they evince an interest in the proceedings?

31. Have you had many opportunities of bringing those tribunals into operation for the adjustment of their differences, and are you of opinion that their permanent establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes?

32. Whether do you consider the judicial system obtaining since the creation of the Court of Appeal, or that prevailing during the general employment of the late special magistrates, most conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition?

33. What quantity of sugar has been made this season in your parish, by proprietors, for the labourers attached thereto, and what amount of money has the same realized?

34. What quantity of stock are the labourers upon the estates in your parish now possessed of?

35. Is such a quantity of ground provisions, corn, &c. now planted, as will in your opinion preclude the possibility of a recurrence of the scarcity threatened in the early part of 1839?

36. What are the prospects of the ensuing crop, and what the general state of cultivation? Has the season been favourable, or otherwise?

37. Are you aware that there has been, since the abolition of apprenticeship, a greatly increased demand from the labouring population for the luxuries of life, such as wine, articles of dress, &c. &c.?

38. Are you of opinion that Savings' Banks and Friendly Societies would be beneficial to the labouring classes, and be contributed to by them; if so, by what means do you conceive that such insti-

ANSWERS.

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No. 1.—*Parish of St. Philip.*

1. Submissive to the laws; and are now regular in their daily labour.
2. Chiefly petty thefts, and assaults and batteries.
3. Since my last quarterly report there is a reciprocal good feeling between the labourers and their employers, which I chiefly attribute to the cessation of emigration.
4. I am confident that the common interests of both parties would tend sooner to the establishment of a good understanding if there was no external intervention.
5. The labourers perform their work willingly where the payment of wages is regularly attended to.
6. They differ; on some estates they work nine hours per day, while on others they perform task work.
7. I beg to refer to my last reply.
8. From two bits to a quarter of a dollar, which is paid weekly; but in the reaping season, increased half a bit per day.
9. They are generally supplied with a house and a spot of land, for which they are expected to work regularly five days per week; if not, they pay as a rent one bit per day when absent.
10. It is not generally; but upon some estates it is a distinct charge, having reference to the estate duty performed by the labourer.
11. The general practice is—that they are engaged to perform day labour; which engagement is only binding for that day; their agreements are all verbal, therefore no records of this nature are lodged in my office.
12. They always prefer verbal to written agreements.
13. Most litigiously disposed.
14. The law regulating the relations between masters and servants is very little acted upon, and the one for providing for the suppression of vagrancy equally so.
15. I have had applications to investigate complaints on account of the undue occupation of houses and lands by labourers, but by visiting the parties have generally arranged the matter amicably.
16. A great many quitted some months ago as emigrants, but they have returned in large numbers.
17. They have generally returned, and I consider they are attached to the estates on which they have been born and brought up.
18. To trade and huckstering, &c.
19. Emigration to a very great extent took place in this parish some months ago, which I attribute to the delusions and crafty wiles of emigration agents and their emissaries; but the "mania" for which has now subsided, and perfect tranquillity is again restored.
20. Decidedly not spontaneous.
21. All ages, but chiefly the efficient labourers; not confining it to any particular class.
22. I am of opinion there is not a surplus population of agricultural labourers, and therefore they would not be spared without great disadvantage.
23. Anything but good; they are supported by their parents.
24. The facilities in this parish for education and religious instruction are numerous, and the attendance equal to the accommodation.
25. They would be readily employed, but their parents are not disposed to bring them up to agricultural pursuits.
26. None whatever.
27. None whatever; indeed I think the labourers are as jealous of their recently acquired rights as free men, that even were such an attempt made it would be utterly abortive, as they would necessarily claim the protection of the laws.
28. They are.
29. I consider that the present system is most conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition.
30. They are; and cheerfully when summoned, and evince great interest in them.
31. Whenever I have had an opportunity, I have done so, and am of opinion that the permanent establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes.
32. I consider the judicial system obtaining since the creation of the Court of Appeal, far more conducive to the welfare of the free labouring population than that under special justices.
33. The season for making sugar has but just commenced, and I am sorry to add that the crop will be very short.
34. A great number; but the exact quantity I do not know, and have found it impossible to obtain.
35. From the long drought that we have experienced lately, provisions are very scarce; but I have no apprehension of a want of food, as we are very well supplied by foreign markets.
36. The prospects of the ensuing crop are bad, but the present cultivation beautiful in the extreme, surpassing any that I have seen for years; which proves the tranquillity and settled condition that now prevails among the labouring population; the season has been most unfavourable.
37. There has been a great increased demand for the luxuries of life.
38. I am of opinion that both would be beneficial to the labouring classes, and conceive that the institution of friendly societies would be best promoted by the clergy in each parish.
39. I consider the peasantry of Barbados happy, and far more so on comparing their situation with that of the labouring classes in other portions of the British dominions.
40. None whatever.

(Signed)

P. L. APPLEWHITE, Police Magistrate.

No. 2.—*Parish of St. James.*

1. The conduct of the labourers in this parish has been very good since my last quarterly report.
2. The majority of offences consists of assaults and batteries, with a few cases of debt and petty theft.
3. The mutual good feeling subsisting between labourers and employers in this parish, stated in my last report, continues to exist.
4. I am of opinion that the common interests of employers and labourers (being inseparably cou-

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nected) do not require the aid of external intervention for promoting a good understanding between the parties.

5. The labourers at the present time perform their work willingly, the cause of the contrary event occasionally happening may generally be traced to the want of proper management on the property where it occurs.

6. The working hours are generally from 6 to 9 o'clock, a.m. and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

7. Task work is not generally resorted to; the objection lies with employers, who generally find the work (from being hurried) badly done.

8. The rate of wages varies at present, from two to three bits per day, and in the reaping season the labourers are remunerated for time over and above the day's labour of nine hours.

9. The labourers are always, or at least in most cases, supplied with a house and a small piece of cultivable land.

10. The labourer receives, when working at the property on which his house and land are situated, two bits per day; when working abroad, he can command three bits per day, therefore I consider the difference in wages to be the rent. The free rent system is partially established in this parish, and I think would be productive of benefit to all parties.

11. The labourers in this parish are simply engaged to perform day labour, which engagement I should consider only binding for one day; and are very averse to entering into any agreement.

12. The labourers are very averse to agreements of any sort.

13. They are most litigiously disposed, resorting to law on most frivolous grounds. The establishment of Courts of Reconciliation and Arbitration promise to correct much of this bad feeling.

14. The new island laws, regulating the relations between masters and servants, have never, to the present time, been acted on in this parish: proprietors and managers finding the plans which they were forced to adopt on the disallowance of the former act to succeed very well, deem it impolitic to run any risk of disturbing the good order and tranquillity which at present prevail by making any alteration in their system of management. The act for the suppression of vagrancy has also not been acted on, but cannot fail to operate as a protection to the industrious labourer.

15. I have been called on in one or two instances since my last report to investigate complaints of unlawful occupation of houses and lands by labourers on the plantations on which they have been working, but have never had but in one case to use any coercive means. The case I alluded to was on account of bad conduct on the part of the labourer.

16. A very sensible diminution in the number of agricultural labourers took place immediately after the termination of apprenticeship.

17. Great numbers, or nearly all the labourers, have returned to the estates which they left on 1st August, 1838, or shortly after; and I consider that in general they are much attached to the places where they have been born and brought up.

18. Those persons who abandon agricultural labour usually betake themselves to domestic employments, and some to carpenters, shoemakers, and tailors' trades, &c. &c.

19. No persons have emigrated from this parish since my last report.

20. I consider that the emigration which has taken place from this island has resulted from the artifices of hiring emigration agents and their emissaries. I do not think it has been spontaneous; as for instance, in this parish where no agent resided, and where the presence of emissaries could not be detected, emigration has been on a trifling scale.

21. Vide answer No. 19.

22. I have always been of opinion that there is no surplus of labouring population in this island, and am certain that none could be spared without disadvantage.

23. The children of the labourers in this parish are entirely supported by their parents, and the greater part are brought up in extreme idleness.

24. My parish affords a large school, and ample accommodation in a church and chapel; the attendance at both is equal to, but does not exceed, what is afforded.

25. The children would meet with ready employment on every estate, but the greatest aversion is evinced by their parents to train them to agricultural pursuits.

26. The labourers appear to take little interest in the complexional distinctions between the white, coloured, or black classes of inhabitants.

27. I have seen no desire on the part of the authorities or gentry to interfere with the rights of freedom acquired on the abolition of slavery. The perfect knowledge possessed by the negro of his rights as a British subject, would make an attempt of that nature perfectly useless.

28. They are fully aware of the existence of the Court of Appeal.

29. I am of opinion that the advantages afforded by the Court of Appeal renders the present judicial system far more conducive to the interests of the labouring population than that existing under the late special magistrates.

30. The labourers seem to be aware of the benefits likely to result from the establishment of these courts. The recent confirmation by Her Majesty of the Act for this purpose has removed the only objection they seemed to entertain,—a clause in the act authorizing the payment of a small sum as a remuneration for their loss of time in attending as jurors.

31. I have had opportunities of bringing these tribunals into operation. I consider their permanent establishment will be attended with the best results.

32. I am decidedly in favour of the present judicial system.

33. My next report will notice this subject more fully; the season is not sufficiently advanced to allow of its being answered now.

34. The labourers in this parish raise large quantities of stock, but are very averse to giving information on the subject.

35. The crop of provisions of all descriptions is a total failure in this parish from unprecedented droughts.

36. The prospects for the ensuing crop are very bad. The cultivation has been very good, the weather unusually unpropitious.

37. There has been since the abolition of apprenticeship a greatly increased demand on the part of the labouring population for the luxuries of life.

No. 3.—*Parish of St. George.*

1. Very peaceable.
2. Of assaults and batteries, and petty thefts.
3. I am of opinion that there is not.
4. I am of opinion that they will. Even now, a very good understanding subsists between the employers and more respectable class of labourers, such as superintendents and other head folks domiciled at the several estates and places of this parish.
5. I think they do.
6. From sunrise till 4 o'clock p.m., daily, one hour of which space is allowed for breakfast; Saturday commonly excepted.
7. Not so generally as it was. The objection (beyond doubt) lies with the labourers.
8. Two bits per day, in money, by weekly payments in and out of the reaping season.
9. They are generally supplied with a room or cottage, with or without a few perches of land around it, upon the terms of labouring five days weekly (sickness and other accidents excepted); besides the ordinary rate of daily wages.
10. Not generally. See answer 9. Upon some estates the rent of land attached to or detached from a labourer's room or cottage (say a quarter of an acre at a weekly rent of two bits), is a distinct charge, without reference to the estate duty, or work done by the labourer.
11. Labourers domiciled at estates or places in this parish, usually enter into verbal agreements to perform day-labour (generally five days in every week), but no records of this kind are lodged in my office.
12. I believe they generally prefer verbal to written agreements.
13. Some are quiet in their general intercourse with each other; others are litigiously disposed, but I believe the majority are well disposed to, and are upon a happy footing, one with the other.
14. I think it has.
15. I have not been called upon to investigate one complaint of this nature during this quarter.
16. I am; and I anticipate in process of time, that such diminution will become more and more sensible.
17. Very few, according to my information, since the 1st of August, 1838, or subsequently. I consider that the labourers of middle age are generally attached to the estates on which they have been born and brought up.
18. To such as they prefer, or can obtain.
19. Not to any considerable extent in this quarter; thirteen is the number. To the natural desire of improving their condition by obtaining higher wages elsewhere.
20. According to my knowledge thereof, I conclude that their emigration has been spontaneous.
21. Between the ages of 16 and 35. The majority of emigrants have consisted of males.
22. I am of opinion there is a surplus population in this island, but sure I am that a large proportion of agricultural or field labourers might not be spared without ruin to the planters of this colony.
23. Generally poor and idle. They are supported by their parents or other relatives.
24. I do not exactly know. It is at the church and chapelries; of the schools I know not precisely.
25. Such children as are of regular and industrious habits are readily employed for hire by the estates on which the parents or other relations are located. Few parents are disposed to train their children to field work; they prefer the training or apprenticeship of their children to trades of different kinds.
26. They do; but time and the common interests of colonial society, will, of course, gradually cause such interest in complexional distinctions to fade away amongst the labourers.
27. I have not. The present government of this island is the greatest security for the rights of the people, and of the just and impartial administration of the laws amongst all classes of the Queen's subjects.
28. I believe they are quite so.
29. I consider the judicial system obtaining since the creation of the Assistant Court of Appeal most conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition.
30. They are in this parish, and cheerfully attend when summoned as jurors, and evince much interest in the proceedings.
31. I have; and am confident that their permanent establishment will be attended with practical good to the working classes.
32. Answered above—see answer 29.
33. Very little hitherto. The sugar crops have not generally been commenced in this parish.
34. I do not know exactly. Besides poultry, pigs, and goats, many labourers are possessed of sheep and other cattle, as cows and horses.
35. The yam crop is expected to fail in the valley estates of this parish, but on the cliff side of the parish it is pretty fair, by all report. Very little corn was planted in St. George.
36. Very indifferent; the season has been quite unfavourable.
37. I am. The demand has increased in proportion to their means of purchasing the luxuries of life.
38. I am. There are three friendly societies established in this parish, and contributed to by the labouring classes; but I cannot suggest how such institutions may be best promoted.
39. I do.
40. I have not.

(Signed)

W. GRIFFITH, Police Magistrate.

No. 4.—*Parish of St. John.*

1. The conduct of the labourers of this parish, since my last quarterly report, has been peaceable, and generally very regular and steady at their work.
2. Petty larcenies and assaults.
3. I have reason to believe that there is a growing good feeling between employer and labourer, from the circumstance, that reference to the magistrate in disputes between these classes in their mutual relation, is of less frequent occurrence than heretofore.
4. I believe that both classes are becoming sensible that their common interests are closely allied

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and mutually dependent; and I think the growing conviction of this will gradually effect a good understanding between them, without the aid of external intervention.

5. Labour is generally performed willingly; in most instances of a contrary occurrence, it arises from a distrust on the part of the labourer, chiefly to be ascribed to ignorance.

6. The working hours in this parish are usually from sunrise to ten o'clock, and from eleven to four in the afternoon.

7. The system of working is variously adapted to circumstances, but a great part of the most laborious agricultural work is performed by jobbers, who superintend labourers employed by them independently of any question of tenure of land.

8. The ordinary rate of wages for labourers attached to plantations remains at two bits per day of nine hours, and all extra labour during the reaping season is estimated at that ratio.

9. Those labourers who are attached to plantations on which they are employed, are generally supplied with lodging, and a small spot of land for cultivation. A continuous labour of five days per week is usually required, for which daily labour they are paid as stated in the foregoing reply, without any deduction being made for rent of house or land; but in cases where the labourer omits to give the five days' labour, a practice has been obtained of deducting a certain quota for such blank days. There are some plantations on which a larger portion of land is allowed the labourers, for which they pay a stipulated labour rent.

10. Answered by the foregoing.

11. In the hiring of agricultural labourers in this parish, it seems to be mutually understood that the relations of employer and labourer exist only from day to day.

12. The labourers seem to have an aversion to all contracts, especially written contracts.

13. The labouring population are litigiously disposed towards each other, and disunited in their interests.

14. The renewal of the island law regulating the relations between masters and servants, and providing for the suppression of vagrancy, has operated very much to the relief of the labouring population, especially in securing to them by law the value of their crops on lands they occupied as incidental to service, and from which they may have been dismissed; and also in providing for the recovery and payment of their wages.

15. I have, in some few instances, been called upon to investigate complaints on account of the undue occupation of their lodging by the labourer, and the fault has been found to exist with the labourer.

16. There has been a sensible diminution of the number of agricultural labourers since the 1st August, 1838.

17. Many labourers have returned who had left the estates on which they were attached on August 1838. They have been generally much attached to the plantations on which they have been brought up, but that feeling is gradually becoming less strong.

18. I apprehend that those persons who have abandoned agricultural labour have usually betaken themselves to the town, and its environs, where they are employed in all sorts of irregular occupations.

19. Emigration has not occurred among the labourers of this parish during the last quarter.

20. The frequent occurrence of emigration in the early part of the last year, is, I believe, attributable solely to the extraordinary influences and exertions made use of by interested persons in the colonies of British Guiana; and the great reflux from thence of the deluded emigrants, shows that the phenomenon did not owe its origin to legitimate causes.

21. See No. 19 above.

22. I do not consider that there is a surplus population in this island; and I think that emigration would be attended by serious injury to the colony, it being so constituted as to preclude the use of machinery to any great extent.

23. The children of the labouring population are living in a state of idleness; their parents, from mistaken ideas of improvement, are subjecting them to the most pernicious habits of life; they insist on their entire emancipation from field work, and send them to the various private schools which have obtained since the abolition of apprenticeship, where the imperfect system of discipline leaves the child without sufficient restraint or employment; they are consequently growing up in habits tending to vice, and generally imbibing the erroneous notion that field labour is derogatory to the condition of the peasantry. Those children who have arrived beyond the age of infancy are generally well clothed and fed by their parents. They are, for the most part, unprovided with regular medical attendance; many instances have come under my observation where infants have been grossly neglected by their parents.

24. There are a parish church and two chapels open for the religious instruction of all classes; there are also two well established parochial schools, besides a well-conducted school on the Coltrington Trust estates, where the children of the labourers are indiscriminately admitted at a trifling cost; but so great is the growing desire for education and improvement among that class, that I believe the accommodation afforded them in those schools is inadequate to their wants. In the present state of society the churches afford sufficient accommodation.

25. Children are rarely employed on the estates on which they are located, and it is wholly to be attributed to a disinclination on the part of the parents to train them up to agricultural labour.

26. I believe that the labouring population take a lively interest in the complexional distinctions between the several classes of the inhabitants.

27. There exists no interference of misapprehension at present on the part of the authorities or gentry of the country, concerning the rights of freedom acquired under the abolition of apprenticeship by the labouring population.

28. The labouring population are fully aware of the existence of the Assistant Court of Appeal.

29. The present judicial system, obtaining since the creation of that tribunal, is unquestionably most suitable to the labouring population in their free condition.

30. The labourers are, I believe, becoming generally aware of the establishment of Courts of Reconciliation; they willingly attend as jurors, and take a lively interest in the proceedings.

31. These tribunals are in full operation in this parish, and I believe that they will be highly conducive to the general good of the labouring classes.

32. See No. 29.

33. This question is not applicable to the season included in this quarter.

34. I have every reason to believe that the labourers are acquiring increase of wealth in stock, &c. Of the exact amount since my quarterly report ending 1st January, 1840, I have had no means of forming a correct estimate.

35. There has been a general reduction in the quantity of ground provisions, corn, &c., grown on plantations, and the present provision crop has been entirely destroyed by a severe drought which has continued above three months, but the quantity of provisions now imported into the island, will, I think, preclude the recurrence of the scarcity threatened in the earlier part of 1839.

36. From the late very unfavourable growing season, the sugar crop is materially shortened. The state of cultivation for the succeeding crop is excellent.

37. There is a greatly increasing demand for the luxuries of life, such as dress, wine, &c., amongst the labouring classes.

38. Friendly Societies have existed with considerable success in this parish for many years. Savings' Banks would be also highly beneficial, but I do not think they would be contributed to by the labouring classes in their present social condition.

39. In comparing their situation with that of the labouring classes of other parts of the British dominions, I consider the labourers of Barbados the most prosperous.

40. I have to recommend, as a measure calculated to create confidence between employer and labourer, and to encourage settled and domestic habits in the latter, that the law regulating landlords and tenants, be amended, giving to the labourers as occupiers of land incident to service, the right to remove any fixtures erected by themselves while in legal occupation. I have also to recommend an inland post office, by means of the present rural police establishment, an institution of great public convenience, and attainable at inconsiderable expense.

(Signed)

HENRY PILGRIM, Police Magistrate.

No. 5.—*Parish of Christ Church.*

1. The conduct of the labourers in this parish continues, generally speaking, very satisfactory.
2. The majority of the offences brought before me consists of petty thefts, and breaches of the peace, but more particularly the latter.
3. In general there is not a want of good feeling between the labourers and their employers. In a few instances, the feeling has been otherwise, owing to the labourers violating their engagements to work for the properties on which they are domiciled, and to insure which, the employers had furnished them with cottages rent free, by way of retainer for steady and continuous labour when in health.
4. The common interests of the employers and labourers having tended, in the altered condition of society, to establish generally a good understanding between those classes, I conceive that this happy result will be best presented by leaving them to act under a sense of the obligations they owe to each other, without the aid of external intervention, as in my opinion such intervention would be productive of discontent and jealousy in the exercise of their respective relationships.
5. The labourers readily and willingly undertake work, but it cannot be said that they keep in view the moral duty of rendering their labour adequate to the wages they receive. Employers complain, and not without cause, of the extreme idleness of their labourers when hired by the day.
6. The working hours are generally from 6 to 10, and from 11 to 4.
7. Task work is not much resorted to, as proprietors object to it, from the careless manner in which the labourers perform it.
8. The general rate of wages paid to domiciled labourers is 20 cents per day for the first class labourers, and other classes in proportion. During the crop, cane cutters are paid 25 cents per day, and manufacturers 30 cents.
9. The labourers domiciled on properties are furnished with good comfortable houses, and generally with a spot of land (about a quarter of an acre), as a garden, free of rent.
10. The arrangement generally between labourers and employers for the privilege of house and land, is that the former will, for the wages agreed upon, work on the properties to which they are attached, when required to do so. If they work on other properties without the leave of their employers, they are charged rent at the rate of ten cents per day for each and every day they are thus absent.
11. Not a single contract of service has ever been lodged in my office, nor am I aware that written agreements are ever entered into between labourers and employers. Parties are free to act as they think fit, with the exception of the principal people, such as superintendents, who are usually employed by the month, and in some cases by the year.
12. The labourers are opposed to written agreements.
13. The labourers in their general intercourse with each other are kindly disposed.
14. The renewal of the island laws regulating the relations between masters and servants, and providing for the suppression of vagrancy, has operated to the relief of the labouring population in protecting them against summary ejections; but as regards the master, from the decided objection which the labourer has to contract for service, it gives him but little chance of a steady supply of labour from those domiciled on his property.
15. I have not, during the present quarter, been required to eject any labourer, and I only ejected one in the last quarter, when as I then reported the fault was with the labourer.
16. No very sensible diminution in the number of agricultural labourers has taken place in this parish since the 1st of August, 1838.
17. In many cases labourers who had left the properties to which they belonged have returned, and again located themselves there; in general, the labourers are much attached to the estates on which they were born and brought up.
18. The labourers who have quitted agricultural employment, have betaken themselves to trades, huckstering, and domestic service.
19. My last quarterly report shewed that emigration was on the decline in this parish, and I am happy to say that it still continues so, as during the whole of this quarter, I have been called on to grant ten certificates only to emigrants. This circumstance affords me the pleasing hope that the labourers are getting rid of the delusion into which they were unfortunately thrown by the artful means practised on them by emigration agents to induce them to quit their native land.
20. From my knowledge of the character and feelings of the Barbados peasantry, I have no hesitation in declaring that their emigration has not been spontaneous; and I am thoroughly convinced that it could only have been effected under the most unwarrantable artifices and misrepresentations, by those who prowled about the country, sowing discontent amongst the labourers, and taking advantage of their ignorance, made them the dupes and victims of their avarice; it being well known that the labours of these men-hunters are rewarded in proportion to the numbers they ensnare,

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and succeed in transporting from the land of their birth. The restlessness and discontent exhibited at times amongst the labourers in this parish, can be attributed to no other cause than the exciting influence of bettering their condition, so specially held out to them by those interested and unprincipled men. This state of things has had a very injurious effect on the conduct of the labouring population, and whilst it cannot fail to be injurious to the best interests of the parish, it has been and will be productive of great suffering and misery to the misguided individuals who have been seduced away from their native land.

21. The ages generally of the emigrants are from 20 to 30, and the majority of them are males.

22. I do not think that we have a surplus population, which could be spared for emigration.

23. Parents seem more anxious about the welfare of their children, in training them to habits of industry.

24. In this parish we have a church, four chapels, and seven public schools in operation, and a chapel on a very large scale in course of erection in the most populous district of the parish. The accommodation which these buildings afford is greater than the attendance of persons at them.

25. Children are readily employed for hire when the parents do not object, and I am happy to say their indisposition to train them to agricultural pursuits is by no means so great as it was.

26. The labourers do take an interest in complexional distinctions, and their preference as to confidence in the respective classes is in favour of the whites.

27. I have never discovered any desire on the part of the authorities or gentry of the country to interfere with the rights of freedom of the lately emancipated class; nor do I think anyone would have the folly to attempt it with the view to retain them virtually in a prolonged state of slavery.

28. The labourers are fully aware of the existence of the Assistant Court of Appeal.

29. From the experience I have had of the vast benefits conferred on the community by the establishment of this court, I consider the judicial system conducted under its supervision much more conducive to the welfare of the labouring population than that which prevailed during the general employment of the late special magistrates.

30. The labourers are fully aware of the institution of Courts of Reconciliation, and before the coming into operation of the recent act for regulating its proceedings, the labourers readily attended when summoned as jurors, and displayed an anxious interest and consideration of the cases brought before them.

31. Having been successful in adjusting the differences between parties in all cases brought before these courts prior to the recent Act above alluded to, I have no doubt that the permanent establishment of them as now provided by law, will be attended with much practical good to the working classes. As yet I have not been enabled to bring the courts into operation under the provisions of the law, owing to the delay of proprietors in furnishing lists of the persons domiciled on plantations who are eligible as jurors, but I trust very soon to re-open the court under the sanction of law, which event is anxiously looked for by many applicants who have notified their desires of having their differences adjusted before these tribunals.

32. See answer 29.

33. Owing to the disinclination of persons to furnish the quantity of sugar made for the labourers attached to their properties, it is not possible to form an accurate estimate on the subject of this inquiry; but considering the very short crops made in the parish, from the long continuance of drought the last year, I should think the proportion reaped for the labourers must have been small.

34. The labourers are averse to affording information of the quantity of stock possessed by them, from an erroneous impression that the object is to impose taxes on them; but from my observations and the general information I obtain on the subject, I should say that they are possessed of large quantities of stock.

35. From the want of rain for many months past, there has been little opportunity for the planting of provisions, which leads me to fear a recurrence of the scarcity felt in the earlier part of 1839.

36. I regret to say that the prospects of the ensuing crop are very bad, owing to the distressing drought which has prevailed throughout the whole of this quarter.

37. The demand for the luxuries of life has greatly increased amongst the labouring population since the abolition of the apprenticeship.

38. Friendly societies have for some time been established in this parish, and from the good they have already produced they cannot fail to improve the morals and infuse industrious habits among the labouring classes. With the view to insure a continuance of the usefulness of these societies, I think them worthy of legislative consideration, in enabling them to carry out with greater certainty of success, the very laudable and praiseworthy objects which led to their formation, and I am of opinion that Savings' Banks would greatly aid the good work in which they are engaged.

39. The peasantry of Barbados have the means of making themselves as happy, if not happier, than those in any other part of the world; and I do conscientiously believe that they would be so if their feelings were not occasionally worked on, and their better judgment misled, by wicked and designing persons, who seek to render them discontented with their lot, in the hope of ensnaring them in the emigration net which they so artfully set for them.

40. With a view to afford speedy redress to the poorer classes who have not the means of carrying their grievances through the ordinary tribunals, I think it very desirable that enactments should be made for their summary relief in minor cases of trespass, trover, detinue, and slander; and I would also suggest a summary power of recovering the possession of tenements after due determination of the tenancy where the rent reserved does not exceed fifteen or twenty pounds.

(Signed)

JOSEPH P. EVELYN, Police Magistrate.

No. 6.—*Parish of St. Peter.*

1. The conduct of the labourers in this parish has been generally quiet and orderly.

2. Crime of magnitude is of rare occurrence in this parish. The majority of offences are petty assaults and batteries, and disorderly conduct in Speight's Town.

3. I infer from the few complaints that have been made to me by either party that a good feeling exists between employers and labourers.

4. External intervention is at all times to be deprecated if it can possibly be avoided, and I have no doubt that the mutual interest of employers and labourers will induce a good understanding between them.

5. I have had no complaint from employers of unwillingness on the part of labourers to perform

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their work, but I believe that on several properties a stubborn disposition has been exhibited by them, although reference has not been made to me; and unless accompanied by disorder and violence, it is desirable that such matters should be adjusted by the parties themselves.

6. From six till nine, and from ten till four.

7. Task work is not generally resorted to when young plants, particularly canes (which require extra care), are to be weeded; in other instances, such as holeing, moulding, and weeding mature plants, it is commonly resorted to.

8. The ordinary rate of wages is two bits per day; on a few estates the custom is to give a quarter dollar per day, and to charge the labourer from half a dollar to a dollar per month rent, according to the size of the house, without reference to the number of occupants. In crop time, extra wages, varying from half a bit to a bit per day, and a few gratuities, are given.

9. To secure the indispensable and important supply of labour on the estates, a little village is established on each by the erection of comfortable dwellings, and a portion of cultivable land is assigned to each labourer. For this privilege and accommodation no charge is made against the labourer, unless he quits the property to bestow his services elsewhere. In such cases half a bit, and sometimes a bit per diem is demanded for such absence. Such charges, however, are never demanded when the labourer communicates with the owner of the property, or his representative, and obtains his sanction to be absent, or in cases of sickness. These matters are clearly understood on both sides, and the system works well under the rude and imperfect knowledge which the late emancipated labourer has formed of his liberty of action.

10. Answered by the two foregoing.

11. No contracts for the performance of agricultural labour exist in this parish; employers and labourers appear opposed to it.

12. As I am not aware that it has been proposed by either party to enter into written agreements, I cannot correctly answer this question.

13. The labourers collectively, in their general intercourse with each other, are upon friendly terms, although rather litigiously inclined on slight causes of dispute.

14. Neither law has been in operation in this parish since their renewal.

15. I have not.

16. From some estates in this parish, few, if any labourers have emigrated. From others, emigration has taken place to a considerable extent since the middle of last April. There are no records of emigrants in this office prior to that time.

17. None of the labourers who quitted the estates on which they were domiciled on the 1st August, 1838, and subsequently, returned to them. I believe that in general they have a strong attachment to the estates on which they were born and brought up.

18. Many of them are employed as fishermen and porters, and in huckstering.

19. Two hundred and seventy labourers, exclusive of fifty-seven children, have received certificates of emigration. I attribute the disposition that has manifested itself on the part of the labourers to emigrate, to promises held out to them by emigration agents, of higher wages and other advantages which they are made to believe they will receive in British Guiana. Emigration has very much decreased latterly from this parish, no certificate of emigration having been signed by me since the 10th day of last August.

20. I believe that in a very few instances some of the labourers may have been induced to quit the island from a love of change, but by far the greater number have been tampered with by emigration agents (many of them labourers themselves), who have gone about the island, bribing and tempting the labourers by pecuniary donations and fallacious promises to quit their homes and families.

21. A large proportion of the emigrants from this parish are young people of both sexes. The average ages of those able to perform agricultural labour may be from twenty-eight to thirty years. The number of male emigrants preponderates largely, being nearly three to one. Such a large portion of males quitting their wives and families, must necessarily tend to demoralize the state of society.

22. The numerical quantity of slaves who were emancipated in 1834, appears to have deceived many persons in the mother country. It has from this cause been imagined that Barbados has a superabundant agricultural population; but the fact is far otherwise, as not a moiety of the slaves were attached to agricultural pursuits, and not above thirty-five thousand labourers are now engaged in the cultivation of the land. The idlers and the petty thieves who exist in the towns and their neighbourhood, constitute a large portion of the emancipated people; and such characters would not be readily induced to undertake the toil of agricultural labour in the colonies of Demerara and Berbice; with such persons, therefore, the emigration crimps have not reaped a harvest for themselves by their artful practices, that have too fatally succeeded with the deluded agricultural population of this island.

23. Those that are not employed in agriculture are sent to school, and supported by their parents and other relatives. They are generally well clothed, and healthy.

24. This parish affords ample facilities for education and religious instruction. There are five schools under the direction of the Established Church (two of which are licensed for the performance of Divine service), at which upwards of four hundred and fifty-eight children are now receiving their education. A Wesleyan chapel and school are also established in Speight's Town, at which two hundred and thirty children are being educated. There are also several other schools conducted by private individuals; at one of these there are one hundred and twelve pupils in the course of education. The attendance at the parish church is not equal to the accommodation it affords.

25. Employers are disposed to hire the children of labourers where they are located, but their parents and relatives prefer bringing them up as tradesmen and domestics, many of the parents misunderstanding the imprudent expressions of Sir Lionel Smith, respecting the disposal of their children's services.

26. The labourers do not appear to take any interest in complexional distinctions.

27. I have not.

28. They are fully aware of it, and of the facility with which they can resort to it.

29. I cannot consider any system of judicial control which wears an exclusive character, in reference to certain classes of the community, as beneficial to society; nor that the late system of special magistracy could ever conduce to the real welfare of the labouring population of this island in their free condition. The present mode of administering justice by complaint to a police magistrate, with a ready access to the existing Court of Appeal, appears to work satisfactorily to all parties; and I am

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not aware that any attempt has been made to impugn the conduct and decisions of the superior court.

30. The labourers are fully aware of the institution of Courts of Reconciliation; they readily attend when summoned as jurors, and evince some tact and knowledge in the examination of witnesses.

31. Several trials have occurred before me, subject to the decision of Courts of Reconciliation, and complainants and defendants have in each case appeared satisfied with the verdicts. I am of opinion they will be attended with practical good to the working classes, particularly as respects riotous and disorderly conduct; admonition from the principal men of their class appears likely to prove effective.

32. Answered by No. 29.

33 and 34. The labourers in this parish have reaped about twenty thousand weight of sugar, netting fifteen hundred dollars at the rate sugar was selling during the crop. This quantity is much shorter than that of last year, owing to the long prevalence of dry weather. The quantity of stock they possess cannot be accurately ascertained, but in answer to my inquiries, I find they possess eleven horses, one hundred and seven cattle, and about sixteen hundred sheep and goats, and seventeen hundred pigs, besides a large quantity of poultry.

35. The long drought which has prevailed for the last two months has caused a failure in the ground provisions and corn; there will be therefore a scarcity in those articles.

36. The prospects of the ensuing crop and the season are very unfavourable; the preparation is good.

37. The clothes they now wear are of a superior kind to those commonly worn by them during the apprenticeship; and they often indulge in luxuries to which labourers of the same class in other countries are strangers.

38. If Savings' Banks were established, I am of opinion that they would be contributed to by the labourers, and be the means of their saving a little money for useful purposes, which they may otherwise idly and unprofitably dispose of. There is a Friendly Society in this parish, under the patronage of his Excellency the Governor, which is attended with beneficial effects to the labouring classes, and is supported by monthly contributions from them.

39. I consider the condition of the labouring population of this country, compared to that of cold climates, far superior. In this country the labourer has no occasion to provide himself or his family with warm clothing or fire on a winter's evening. Infants are often seen basking in the sun, independent of those articles of dress essential in a cold climate. Clothing, by retail, can be procured as cheap here as in England, and cheaper than in most of the other colonies. I am therefore of opinion that the labourers here are better paid, and have the means to be quite as happy, as those of any other part of the British dominions.

40. Complaints have frequently been made to me by labourers, and others of inferior condition, that they have advanced money, and in many instances found materials, to have articles of dress or furniture, &c., made, and that the dishonest tradesman would neither comply with his engagement, nor return the money and materials. As complaints of this kind are not cognizable by a magistrate, I recommend that an act be passed to give the grieved party redress by summary process (where the sum or value of the materials claimed does not exceed ten pounds), before a police magistrate. I would also recommend a modification of the building ordinance to permit the erection or removal of wooden structures, in situations other than the principal streets; and also that an act be passed to regulate the Speight's Town market.

(Signed)

J. C. B. SCANTLEBURY, Police Magistrate.

No. 7.—*Parish of St. Thomas.*

1. Wherever the labourers are comfortably located and well treated, they evince little or no disposition to lead a roving life; but where that is not the case, they do occasionally quit their domiciles in search of higher wages.

2. Assaults, petty thefts, and some cases of larceny.

3. The only cause of dissatisfaction which now exists between the employers and labourers, arises from the rent system, which, as it now stands, is a bad one, from the want of uniformity: estates charging various rates of rent for the labourers' cottages and allotments. In my opinion, it would be better if the labourers were charged a fair rent for their houses and allotments, and be allowed to dispose of their labour wherever they please.

4. I do not think that any external intervention need be resorted to, as there is every appearance at present of a very good understanding between the labourers and their employers.

5. Generally speaking, the labourers do perform their work willingly; but here, as in all other countries, there are, and always will be, some exceptions.

6. On many estates in my district, the labourers only work eight hours per day, but where the nine hours' system is kept up, they work from 6 a.m. to 10, and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

7. Task work is not generally adopted, owing to the careless way in which it is performed; it is, however, resorted to on most estates in the cutting of canes and bushes.

8. The rate of wages varies; in the crop season, on most estates, the cane cutters receive two and a half bits per day, those employed at the mill, three bits; each boiler and carter three bits, &c. On some properties they get less money, but receive an equivalent in provisions.

9. The labourers generally are supplied with good cottages, and each of them with a spot of land to cultivate, gratis, provided they are constant in labouring for the estate on which they are domiciled; but when they dispose of their labour on other estates, rent is charged to them.

10. The cottage and land are given to the labourer as an inducement to insure his continuous labour on the estate, and is, in consequence, free of any charge, provided he does not labour elsewhere; but should he do so, he is then charged with rent.

11. Proprietors strive to domicile on their estates as many labourers as will carry on the cultivation; where they fail doing so, they are generally obliged to resort to day labour, and consequently enter into no contract for so short a time.

12. They are averse to written contracts, and therefore prefer verbal agreements.

come to my knowledge, for which hasty act the manager was fined. I have not as yet had occasion to commit any person under the provisions of the vagrant act.

15. I have, in some cases immediately after my appointment, but am happy to state that my endeavours to produce peace and good feeling between the labourers and their employers, have not been without effect, as there is scarcely an instance of any ejection now coming to my knowledge; but when one does take place, I think the fault is mutual, and proceeds more from hasty tempers than from any ill will towards each other.

16. There is certainly a considerable diminution in the number of agricultural labourers to what they were previous to the apprenticeship, and it is in a great measure owing to the disinclination which the parents have to bring up their children to agricultural pursuits.

17. The labourers, generally speaking, are attached to the estates on which they were born and brought up, but there are many of them who voluntarily remove to other properties by the inducement of higher wages, or the prospect of greater comforts; some have returned and resumed labour, but they are not always stationary.

18. They mostly become hawkers and pedlars, either trading for themselves, or as agents for others; a great many of them obtain by rent a spot of land to work up, but whenever they become able to purchase land they invariably prefer doing so. The Mount Wilton labourers, for instance, for whom so large a sum of money as 7,055*l.* was lately recovered, have most of them applied their respective amounts in the purchase of land.

19. Emigration to a very trifling extent has taken place in my parish. Certificates have been granted to ten males and one female, all of whom I am certain have not left. One has returned in very bad health.

20. In my opinion their emigration has not been spontaneous, but entirely owing to the shameful system of fraud practised by persons calling themselves emigration agents, who stick at nothing to carry their diabolical traffic into effect, holding out such inducements to the labourers as to cause great numbers of them to fall victims to the baneful climate of British Guiana.

21. As I have stated in answer to No. 19, ten males and one female; the latter was the youngest of the number, and aged about 15 years, the eldest about 45.

22. We have not a surplus population of agricultural labourers, but a great number of idlers, particularly about the towns.

23. They are allowed to remain on the estates with their parents, and are supported by them.

24. There is a spacious school near the church, which is open to all colours; two under the direction of the Moravians, and sundry other schools about the parish. Since the erection of the chapel, I can with confidence say, that the accommodation is equal to the attendance.

25. The children are readily employed by the estates, but their services are withheld by their parents, who appear to have a strong disinclination to permit their being employed in agricultural labour.

26. The labourers take no interest in complexional distinctions, generally labouring for the highest wages and best treatment.

27. I do not believe there is a single individual in my district who would wish them to return to a state of slavery, or who would wish to treat them as slaves; on the contrary, the proprietary body, as far as I can judge, seem disposed to live on the most friendly terms with them.

28. The labourers are fully aware of the existence of a Court of Appeal.

29. This is to us, who now discharge the duties which were formerly attached to the special magistracy nominated by the British government, a question of delicacy and some difficulty. The publicity of proceedings before the Courts of Appeal presents a desirable security for the attainment of public justice, and, as I have before said, I think the establishment of that court a real blessing to the island.

30. I believe I was one of the first magistrates who formed Courts of Reconciliation, the successful and happy effects of which have been already reported to his Excellency. It gives me also pleasure to observe their thirst after knowledge, for so anxious and pleased are they to serve as jurors, that they frequently volunteer their services in that capacity.

31. I frequently hold Courts of Reconciliation for the adjustment of their differences; and am convinced that their permanent establishment will be attended with advantage to the labouring population.

32. I fully replied to this question in No. 29.

33. As far as I have been able to ascertain, the quantity of sugar made for the labourers the last year was not beyond one half of the preceding crop, they having suffered in common with their employers from the long drought.

34. The increase of stock of every description belonging to the labourers is now so great that they find it very difficult to procure food for them.

35. I am very sorry to be obliged here to observe that, notwithstanding the unrivalled industry of the Barbados planters and labourers, they will experience a severe disappointment in the staple crop (sugar), as well as the corn and other provisions now being reaped; this is to be attributed to the long and distressing drought previous to the 16th and 17th of October, on which two days we had plenty of rain, but from that period down to the present time, only a few light showers.

36. The seasons have been so unfavourable to the agricultural prosperity of the island, as to occasion a great diminution in the sugar and provision crops. In my opinion the island shipments this year will not even realize as much as the last; the estates are, however, in this parish under a high state of cultivation.

37. The labouring population still continue to evince the greatest desire of obtaining the best of every thing. As regards dress, they spare no cost, and it is really pleasing to see how respectably clad they are on all public occasions.

38. The friendly societies in this parish are in a very flourishing condition. On their anniversary meeting, on the 21st of December, there were about six hundred present. The lord bishop and many of the clergy honoured the meeting with their presence. Every praise is due to the Rev. W. H. B. Bovell, for his unwearied exertions in the formation of these societies. I was myself present at the meeting, and do declare that their appearance and deportment would have done credit to any country. Savings' banks, if properly conducted, would be beneficial to the labouring population.

39. The peasantry of this island are as happy and as comfortably situated as can well be desired, and are much to be envied by the peasantry of other parts of Her Majesty's dominions.

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40. I have not at this time any suggestions to offer, or any practical measure to recommend, but should any object present itself at a future period, I shall lose no time in communicating with his Excellency.

(Signed)

J. CARBOW, Police Magistrate.

No. 8.—*Parish of St. Joseph.*

1. With greater experience of the labouring population, than when my last quarterly report was made, I am ready to speak most favourably of their dispositions to good order, and to confirm the prevailing opinion that, in spite of the agitation which is still kept up, they are settling into steady and industrious habits.

2. I regret to see so many larcenies amongst the number of offences, and especially as these have increased in proportion as offences of a more trivial nature have been diminishing. The excuse is that the times are hard, and there is necessity for it; but in spite of this our morals are improving.

3. I cannot say that there is yet quite restored that reciprocal good feeling between employers and labourers which every well wisher of both parties must anxiously covet, and I would attribute it to no other cause than the late dissatisfaction produced in the minds of the labourers by the agents for emigration, which has again roused any lurking suspicion they may have entertained of integrity on the part of their employers towards them.

4. That the natural cause of things will at length bring about a perfect understanding between employer and labourer, I cannot for a moment doubt; and I may be justified in saying that many elements for effecting this end are already apparent. The interests of the employer teaches the necessity of liberal conciliation and forbearance, whilst the labourer is not less alive to the immunities and advantages which approved conduct must obtain.

5. There seems to be some objection to the length of time required for working, but, I should say, without sufficient reason.

6. On some estates, from six till ten o'clock, and from eleven till four o'clock; on others, from six till nine, from ten till one, and from three till six o'clock, in either case completing nine hours. I am not aware of any other system.

7. Task work is not general, objected to chiefly by employers, in consequence of the very incomplete way in which it is for the most part performed. There can be no other fair objection urged against it.

8. The ordinary rate of wages for located labourers is two bits per day, for nine hours work, with rations of rum and molasses. In the reaping season the same rate obtains, unless they work more than nine hours, when it becomes two bits and a half, or three bits accordingly. There is, in addition to labour thus produced, a very considerable body of effective labourers throughout the island, with scarcely any fixed abode, who are not unfrequently called upon to supply the deficiency of labour on estates thinly populated. These are invariably paid higher wages. I should estimate the value of their day's work in money and perquisites at not less than four bits per day.

9. The located labourers are supplied with a house free, and a quarter of an acre of land rented them, to be tenants of both on these terms, so long as they give their continuous services to the estate they live on.

10. It seems to be the object of the employer, for the sake of procuring constant labour, to remit the entire rent of the house; but that there is the understanding that a rent is fixed, is evident, from the charge of a bit or more per day when the labourer is irregular, except in the case of sickness or other reasonable cause of absence. The rent of the land is almost an invariable charge. Some few estates do not rent the labourer any land, but whenever it is done, in the event of his leaving the estate, an appraised value of his crop is punctually paid.

11. The labourers individually seldom engage for any work beyond the day. They seem to regard contracts with considerable suspicion.

12. To any sort of agreements they manifest great dislike. I have not observed them to shew any preference to verbal or to written agreements.

13. As far as their present social order admits, there is more mutual confidence and harmony existing among them than might be expected.

14. Masters and servants, being both of them, I conceive, sufficiently convinced of their identity of interests, are settling this question of relationship between themselves on a better and more amicable footing than were it to be adjusted by legal enactments; and I am of opinion that a spirit is prevailing which will ultimately render these laws obsolete in their influence.

15. I am most happy to state that in no instance have I been called upon to investigate any complaint of this nature.

16. I am not of opinion that any very sensible diminution in the population of this parish has taken place.

17. Many have returned; I believe the force of old associations to weigh with them considerably.

18. To idleness, or avocations very nearly allied to it.

19. Emigration has not occurred to any great extent in this parish. It is remote from the great scene of agitation; and, from its locality, possesses many advantages for the labourer which other parts of the island cannot lay equal claim to. The end of emigration is now rapidly approaching; certificates having been granted to only twelve individuals during the last quarter. I can only attribute this desire on the part of the labourer to emigrate, to the seductive and fair falsehoods that have been so indefatigably circulated by emigration agents, respecting advantages to be derived in the magnificent colony; and these operating on weak and restless minds, and that propensity of our nature to believe things to be as we would wish them, producing by contrast, captiousness and discontent, has

they had ever heretofore valued or respected; and this by a set of strangers in the land, agitating for their livelihood, and sowing the seeds of anarchy and discord, to answer the ends of a most mercenary traffic.

21. Of young men, between twenty and thirty, the major part of the emigrants from this parish has consisted.

22. That Barbados contains an immense population for its size there is no doubt; but as the cultivation of sugar requires, and can never be carried on successfully, but with a redundant population, I should say we have none but the refuse to spare.

23. The prospects of the rising generation are not most favourable; while the one half are almost vagabonds, the others are sent to the most inefficient schools, where the pocket of the unconscious parent becomes a prey to the unqualified teacher.

24. Besides the parish church, and a chapel of ease, there is the parochial school, where daily instruction is given. Catechists attend on Sundays at the church and chapel, to instruct adults. The attendance at Divine service is numerous, but the accommodation not equal to the wants of the congregation; at the school rather the reverse of this is the case.

25. Children are readily employed whenever the parents are disposed to it, and they are becoming now more alive to the necessity of teaching them the same industrious habits, by which only they are themselves able to get a livelihood. The idea of placing them in a sphere of life above themselves, which they conceive effected by allowing them to riot in idleness, is being fast abandoned, and is an evil which in every free country must soon work its own cure. The better ordered are giving their children what they can afford in the shape of education, and then send them to agriculture.

26. Another generation, and all distinctions of complexion will have passed away, but at this time I would exclude no colour from feelings of prejudice on this point.

27. Whatever may have been the feelings of interested parties at the time of abolition, whose hopes and fortunes were all dependent on the success of that great experiment, I can now, with confidence assert, that the planters, no less than the liberated slaves, hail with delight the blessings of freedom conferred on their land; and, whilst rejoicing that the foul stain is for ever blotted out and forgotten, are with eager anxiety striving to promote every measure designed for the preservation of good order, and the security and maintenance of their equal rights.

28. The existence of this court has been frequently made known to them.

29. Not having been in any part of the West Indies during the period of the apprenticeship, I can scarcely adjust this comparison, but, from the confidence reposed by the labouring population in the present judicial system, and the end which it so admirably answers, I cannot suppose it inferior to that obtaining under the late special magistracy, whatever might have been its advantages.

30. They are becoming more generally aware of it, and the remuneration now appointed to the jurors is likely to lessen the unpopularity of this office, which must otherwise have been a considerable tax on their time. They do evince a very considerable interest in the proceedings.

31. I have not had many opportunities of witnessing their operation, but from what I have seen I have been led to form a favourable opinion of their ultimate success. There may be some difficulties in the way, but such only as may be over-ruled by practice.

32. I believe the Court of Appeal to be a most salutary check on the decisions and judgments of the local magistrates, and consequently more likely to insure for the labouring population that impartial justice which the special magistracy without appeal may possibly have failed in.

33. The reaping season is now commencing, therefore any reply to this question must be deferred for the present.

34. This question is one of great difficulty to answer with accuracy, but having consulted with those competent to give me information, I have learned that I may ascribe on an average in this parish, one sheep and two pigs to each family, and a cow to every eight families. The average has been much reduced by the late and still continuing most oppressive drought, and consequent want of food for stock.

35. The continuance of an almost unprecedented drought may lead us to apprehend a considerable scarcity of all provisions. The land has been ready to be sown, but no opportunity has offered for the last two months to the expecting agriculturists.

36. Less rain being required in the fertile and tenacious clay soils in this part of the island, it is still hoped that there will be some sugar made, but the crops will be much under an average; the cultivation is improving in proportion to the dispiriting prospects opening to the planters.

37. This fondness for undue luxuries has ever been a characteristic of the lower classes in this colony, and I have every reason to believe that with greater means for obtaining them they will not be disposed to abandon their favourite passion.

38. Savings' Banks and Friendly Societies might both, in their respective ways, be of considerable benefit to the labouring population, especially the former; it would be a guarantee for those funds hoarded by economy, and not unfrequently a prey to the rapacity of designing thieves or worthless connexions. A friendly society is already established in this parish, and working well.

39. I see no reason to think that the Barbados peasantry is not one of the happiest I have ever met with in my various wanderings, and I believe them to be so.

40. Having no suggestions of my own to make, I can only express a hope that the legislature may continue to evince the same zeal as heretofore, in bringing forward continually such impartial measures as the exigencies of our new order of society may require, and this matter I leave in their hands, in confidence that they will liberally distribute their rights to all classes of this community.

(Signed)

J. D. MAYCOCK, Police Magistrate.

No. 9.—*Parish of St. Lucy.*

1. The labourers are still indolent and irregular at their work, and not less disposed to be litigious among themselves, especially for petty debt and injury to each others property.

2. Breaches of the peace, theft, debt, and injury to property. Many cases of theft, I understand, are compromised by the parties, without application to the magistrate; imprisonment being generally awarded for that offence.

3. The good feeling has improved, and appears only to be interrupted by the unauthorized interference of emigration agents, and inflammatory publications through the *Liberal* newspaper.

4. I think so.

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5. They do not perform their work willingly, and I ascribe it to a feeling of independence arising from the high wages they become weekly possessed of.
6. Nine hours per day, at the option generally of the labourers; additional pay is always allowed for any extra work.
7. Task work is not usually now resorted to, in consequence of the planters having discovered that it was hurried over, and very frequently inefficiently performed.
8. Two bits per day, throughout the year, for efficient labourers, and all other classes proportionably; in the reaping season, those employed in the manufacture of sugar receive a certain additional sum for each and every hogshead of sugar made; they are paid in cash, and in most places every week.
9. They have comfortable houses erected for them, which they are allowed to inhabit gratuitously, except on occasions of wilful absence from the property, when by agreement a trifling charge is made. To each of the houses a quarter of an acre of arable land is attached, without any charge for rent of the same.
10. No set-off is made against the labourers' wages for the rent of the houses and planting of the allotments of ground, unless they absent themselves to work on other properties: in cases of sickness no discount is expected.
11. They are allowed a certain sum per day, which they usually receive weekly, as before stated in reply to question No. 8. No agreement, either verbal or written, is entered into, and they act as free subjects, being not bound for a single day.
12. They are averse to any agreement written or verbal. In the event of the work being improperly performed, their wages are stopped until they go over it, this being the only restraint to induce them to effect it as it ought to be done.
13. They are litigiously disposed, often making trivial complaints, which are compromised before the Court of Reconciliation; notwithstanding this, there seems to be a better feeling arising amongst them.
14. I do not conceive that the labourers have been in any way affected by the operation of these acts.
15. I have not been called upon during the present quarter.
16. No sensible diminution has taken place; a great number of the labourers who had emigrated having returned to the district.
17. A great many have returned, but continue unsettled and fond of roaming from place to place for a short period; generally speaking, they are attached to the homes on which they were born and brought up.
18. Endeavouring to pass themselves off as domestic servants, boatmen, porters, fishermen, and hawkers of merchandize.
19. Only fifty-five since my last report; total from the district 328, including those already reported. Emigration seems to have ceased from this parish, and I attribute it to the ill state of health in which many of the labourers have returned; the numerous deaths, and unexpected violation of faith in their suborners, which they state to have experienced, compelled it.
20. Emigration has not generally been spontaneous, and has been effected by the futile inducements held out by unauthorized agents. The emigrants who have returned to the island seem perfectly convinced of, and thoroughly disgusted with, the gross impositions practised upon them.
21. Chiefly adults, the majority being males.
22. Although the population of the island is very great in proportion to its extent, I do not think that agricultural labourers can be spared; particularly since the secession of many labourers, endeavouring, if possible, to engage themselves in domestic and handicraft pursuits, in preference to field work; a great number having recently discontinued the culture of land with that view.
23. They are domiciled on the estates with their parents, by whom they are supported, but in a great measure from the means of the estates; their condition is good, and very few are permitted by their parents to be employed by the proprietors, as they generally attend the schools daily.
24. There is one large school room supplied by the parish; there are many private schools where instruction can be obtained on most reasonable terms. The attendance at church and school is equal to the accommodation.
25. The parents have decidedly an objection to training their children to agricultural pursuits; they would readily obtain employment from the proprietors.
26. Not according to my observation.
27. No such desire has ever been manifested; on the contrary, I think every inhabitant greets, as a source of congratulation, the final abolition of slavery in Her Majesty's colonies.
28. Without doubt.
29. I conceive the present judicial system perfectly calculated to secure the rights of all classes of inhabitants; I certainly prefer it to that exercised by the late special magistrates.
30. They are fully aware of it, attend readily, and seem to take much interest in its establishment.
31. I have for many months; and I am convinced that their permanent establishment will be attended with advantage to all classes.
32. This question is replied to in No. 29.
33. The manufacture of sugar has not yet commenced, but I do not think that the labourers will realize much from that source, in consequence of the late prevailing drought throughout the island. The labourers have lately given their attention more to the planting of ground provisions than *cane*.
34. The exact quantity cannot be ascertained, but on all estates the labourers are unlimited by the proprietors, as to the quantity of sheep, goats, pigs, and feathered stock that they please to keep. In some places they are permitted to keep horses and horned cattle.
35. A fair proportion has been planted, but a failure has arisen from the long continued drought; consequently a greater scarcity of ground provision is to be apprehended, than in the year 1839 or 1840.
36. The prospect of the present crop is very bad, the season most unpropitious, and the state of cultivation moderate.
37. I think so, particularly in articles of dress.

40. I think that the operation of a trespass act would be attended with advantage to all classes of the community; frequent offences arise from the absence of such an enactment, often leading to breaches of the peace.

(Signed)

A. H. MORRIS, Police Magistrate.

No. 10.—*Parish of St. Andrew.*

1. For the last quarter there has been a manifest improvement; the number of labourers has been on the increase for some time; the spirit of litigation has declined; and they appear more disposed to receive advice than formerly.

2. Debt, injury to property, assaults and battery, and petty theft. I would here remark that I have not had a single complaint for sheep-stealing, goat-stealing, or pig-stealing, during this year; and only one case of larceny, the subject of which, when called on by the Court of Session for his defence, replied that he had done it "because he was going to Demerara!"

3. I do not think there is any want of good feeling between the labourers and their employers.

4. My former opinion on this question was shaken by the pernicious influence exercised by emigration agents, which had the effect of inducing even valuable labourers to desert employers admitted to be kind, home, relatives and friends, to enter on this novel experiment: they have been disappointed. I therefore again entertain the hope that their present relation has assumed a more permanent character, and that it will continue to increase.

5. They do not, except when engaged at exorbitant wages. I cannot offer a motive, as none has ever been assigned to me. Occasional creditable exceptions to this general representation are manifested in some places.

6. The nine-hour system, in two or three spells daily, is that which is aimed at by agriculturists; but it is not attained everywhere. Whether the amount of the labour performed, is executed in two or three spells daily, is rather in accordance with the wish of the labourer than the employer.

7. Task work is not constantly resorted to, and is not found available to every description of cultivation. In the application of labour I am induced to conclude the employer consults his own interest. I have no complaint on the subject.

8. The former rate of wages, two bits or the fifth of a dollar to first class people, generally prevails; but higher rates are occasionally granted. Extra wages are given to those who are employed beyond the usual time during crop. The sugar-making is barely commenced this season; but I had no complaints during the past crop, or since, on the subject of wages.

9. The labourers of this parish generally have a cottage and a plot of land assigned them gratuitously by their employers, besides the indulgence of keeping and raising stock.

10. It cannot be imputed to the employers of this parish that the cottage or land is generally granted at a permanent rent, or at a discount of wages, the understanding being that when the labourer is so accommodated, he or she will render their services exclusively to that property; and rent is demanded when they desert and labour elsewhere.

11. The engagement of located labourers would seem to be continuous; and they are generally paid at the close of each week, except the official people, as superintendents, watchmen, and stock-keepers, whose wages are usually settled at a rate per month, or per quarter, and are so paid generally by the Island Act to regulate the hiring of servants. Twenty-four hours' notice is enjoined the employer previous to his compelling the servant to quit, which arrangement has been effective against summary ejectment. Nevertheless the servant can and does quit at will. No records of agreement have ever been lodged in this office.

12. I am not aware that they enter into engagements which they esteem as binding on themselves in any way; at least I can say no engagement is submitted to my observation or review.

13. The frivolous matters about which they frequently dispute exhibits them as quarrelsome and litigious; and these causes are enlarged by their occasional wandering from parish to parish, as well as from place to place, whereby their private relations are interfered with, and which leads to virulent disputation.

14. The first of these Acts has been inoperative, except for the protection which it affords the servant against summary ejectment; under the other Act, I have only had one complaint.

15. I have had only one instance of complaints of this nature. Some of the parties had not been seen by the employer for weeks previous to the complaint being made. This occurred while the labouring population of this parish were considerably excited by the influence of emigration agents.

16. There can be no doubt of this.

17. Some few have recently returned, who have been absent the whole intervening period. I think the labourer in general attached to the estate on which he was born and brought up.

18. That I cannot answer.

19. The whole number who have received emigration certificates at this office was 26 persons, whose sexes have been described in a former report; many of these did not leave. Some few have returned from Guiana, and returned to their former homes and occupation; but the agitation to which it gave birth produced more extensive and injurious consequences: it tended to demoralize the people by influencing them to desert their families; to cheat their creditors by obtaining certificates of departure under fictitious names; to incur debt, which they would not have deemed necessary while they remained at home; and, although the law has been misrepresented as oppressive and arbitrary, and is said to have been vexatiously executed, it has been evaded by parties who have left their relatives to pine in destitution. I had no application since the 3rd of September last, since which the number of labourers in this parish has increased, and a more peaceful and industrious disposition has manifested itself among them. There still exists a desire to advance the rate of wages among the labourers, although the last short crop, and present protracted drought, threatens the whole proprietary body with bankruptcy.

20. I am perfectly sure that the emigration of the Barbados peasantry was not spontaneous; that the most disgraceful artifices were exercised to incite them to it, besides the pledge of higher wages and other advantages, which, not having been realized to those who have tried it, they have voluntarily discontinued it.

21. There have been no fresh applicants in the present quarter, the others have been previously described.

22. There are no surplus labourers in this island that I am aware of, although there is a very

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numerous population; consequently there are no labourers to spare for the convenience or advantage of our neighbours.

23. They are chiefly supported in idleness by their parents and others.

24. There is a church and chapel of the Established Church of England, and a temporary place of worship of the same, besides a Wesleyan chapel and school, and there are three other schools in different situations within the parish, and under the superintendence of the rector of the parish and his curate. The attendance at each of the places to which I have referred is very numerous and regular, and I believe equal to the accommodation.

25. The children would find ample employment if they were willing to work, but the disinclination of their parents to see them engaged in agricultural pursuits, contributes to retard their advance to it.

26. I have not witnessed any such feeling.

27. Not the slightest evidence of such a desire.

28. They are fully aware of it, and frequently resort to it, but not from this parish.

29. The most unquestionable advantages attach to the present judicial system, in comparison with the former one, as composed of the late special magistrates: here I would be understood with reference to the system, and not of the persons who composed or administered the former one.

30. They are fully aware of the institution of Courts of Reconciliation. I have never experienced any difficulty in obtaining their attendance as jurors, and they evince considerable diligence as well as interest in the proceedings.

31. I have frequently resorted to them, and successfully; particularly as a means of adjusting discordant opinions, to which purpose they are particularly applicable, according to their title. The labourers appear to dislike being punished by each other.

32. The present system is entitled to a decided preference, and has been most satisfactory to every party, and is I think more conducive to the welfare of the labouring population in their free condition.

33. I could never obtain any information.

34. The labourers dislike any inquiry of this nature; probably on account of the great amount of it, I could not obtain any circumstantial or accurate return of it, nor do I think it will be properly accomplished unless it is made legally imperative.

35. The supply has been in greater variety and amount during the present than for several preceding years in this parish; at present there is a sufficiency to meet the wants or necessities of the inhabitants, but we are now suffering severely from protracted drought.

36. The appearance of the sugar crop in this parish was most satisfactory at the beginning of November; now it is scorched up; the preparation for the crop to be planted is generally good, and in sufficient forwardness; the planting has been delayed for want of rain; the season has been most unfavourable.

37. There has been, and it is amply indulged.

38. Of Friendly Societies I entertain the assurance of considerable benefit; and under the fostering superintendence of the clergy I know that they are extensively contributed to. Savings' Banks I have not the same confidence about.

39. I have no personal opportunity of making the comparison, but if the Barbados labourers are not a happy peasantry I think it is their own fault.

40. I have not any at present.

(Signed)

JAMES S. BASCOM, Police Magistrate.

No. 11.—Parish of St. Michael.—Rural District.

1. Since my last quarterly report the conduct of the labourers in the rural district of this parish has been such as to afford satisfaction generally to their employers.

2. The majority of cases brought before me are for assaults, petty thefts, and small debts incurred to the shopkeepers.

3. There exists in this parish a mutual good feeling between the labourers and their employers; and with the exception of a few cases of rent, I have scarcely had a complaint from either party against the other.

4. I am of opinion that if left to themselves the mutual interest of employers and labourers will be the surest means of establishing that good understanding so essential to the welfare and happiness of each party; and that external intervention, whilst it interferes with many salutary measures adopted by the Executive and other branches of the legislature, who, residing on the spot, must necessarily be better acquainted with the wants of all classes of the community, and tends in a great measure to keep up a spirit of irritation, and to engender in the minds of the labourers towards their employers a spirit of distrust and discontent.

5. The labourers are performing their work most willingly in this parish.

6. From 6 to 10, and from 11 to 4 o'clock p.m.

7. Task work is not generally resorted to in this parish, not from any disinclination on the part of the labourers to perform it, but from an opinion formed by most of the planters, that it is an injudicious practice, and tends in many instances to the performance of bad work by some of the labourers, who from their inability to get through their work as quick as others, often leave their task in an unfinished and slovenly state. On this subject, however, there is a great difference of opinion between some of the best and most practical planters.

8. Two bits per diem to those labourers who are located on the estates, and a quarter dollar to others; in the reaping season those employed about the work are, for their extra time, either paid so much for each hogshead of sugar made, or an additional sum allowed to their daily pay, besides many small perquisites.

9. Those located are furnished with a house, and on most estates with a small portion of ground to cultivate; should they require more, they pay for it at the rate of from seven to ten pounds per annum.

10. My opinion on the subject has not undergone any alteration since my report of the 1st of April. I still think that the house and ground cannot be considered in any other light than forming part of the hire of the labourer, as the transient labourers employed on estates, who do not enjoy those comforts, receive for their daily wages at the rate of a quarter dollar or three bits for the work performed by them, whilst those who are located and have houses, receive only two bits, consequently the difference, in my opinion, must be estimated as a set-off for those advantages.

11. The parties who are located on the estates are generally considered in the light of permanent

labourers, still there is no compulsion on their part to remain longer than they please; they are employed for no particular time, and may change their employers whenever they think proper; I know of no agreement existing between any parties; if there are any, they must be verbal, as I have no records in my office.

12. Decidedly verbal to written agreements.

13. My experience confirms me in the opinion that they have little or no confidence in each other, they seek the law on the most trivial provocation.

14. The servants' wages act, usually called the Contract Act, has been almost a dead letter; the Vagrant Act in its operation is well calculated to maintain order and decorum among the labouring population, and to protect the peaceable and well disposed portion from the profligate and licentious.

15. I have not been called on to investigate any complaints on account of the undue occupation of houses or lands by labourers from the plantations on which they have been working, but I have been called on in a few instances to enforce payment in the form of rent against parties, who not being located on the estate, have occupied the houses of their wives or relations, but having expressed my decided disapproval of such attempts to make the husband pay for visiting his wife, and having dismissed several complaints of this nature, I feel assured that I shall not again be troubled on this subject; I am still of opinion that these disagreements would be obviated by proprietors renting the labourers their cottages, and allowing them to work where they please.

16. I am of opinion that there has been very little decrease in the number of agricultural labourers in this district since the 1st of August, 1838.

17. Many labourers have returned to the properties which they had quitted, and daily experience proves that they have in almost every instance a latent wish to return to those properties where they have been brought up and well treated.

18. The females generally take to huckstering, and the males to work as porters, boatmen, &c., many, however, have returned to their original employment.

19. Very few agricultural labourers have emigrated from this parish, the number for the quarter ending 31st ultimo, is three. The inducements for emigration are the promises held out by the agents for the proprietors in Demerara, who either by themselves or their subordinates, lead the labourers to suppose that they will there receive much higher wages and many more comforts and advantages than they have here; these promises however are now pretty well known by the labourers to be delusive, and emigration to Demerara among the agricultural labourers has nearly received its death blow.

20. From my knowledge of the character and feelings of the Barbados peasantry, I can confidently affirm that their emigration has not been spontaneous; they have been seduced away from the land of their birth by delusive promises, and many have found a premature grave in Demerara and Berbice; too much reprobation cannot be bestowed on those persons who have been the means of seducing them from a climate congenial to their constitutions, to one where it was well known by experience that disease and death would be their portion. Many have returned in a most wretched state of health, and from their account of the climate and the description of work required to be performed, the Barbados labourers have at last found that they have been shamefully imposed on, and very few are found willing to try the experiment of emigration.

21. The ages of the emigrants vary from 16 to 40; very few females or children have emigrated during the last quarter.

22. In my opinion there is not a surplus population in this island for the cultivation of the soil, and I consider that from the number who have emigrated, the planters would experience in the event of having to reap a good crop much inconvenience. Some might be spared from the mechanics and petty trades.

23. The system generally adopted by the labourers in bringing up their children, is such, that if not speedily altered, will, I am afraid, be productive hereafter of much poverty and distress to them, and entail on the community a degree of pauperism hitherto unknown; they are brought up for the most part in idleness, and are supported by their parents.

24. There are great facilities afforded in this parish for religious instruction and education; besides the cathedral, there are six chapels licensed by the lord bishop for the performance of Divine service; the accommodation afforded in the whole may be estimated at about 6,000. The Wesleyan and Moravian Societies have also two large chapels, capable of holding about 800 each. There has been no addition to the schools or chapels since my last report.

25. The children on estates would be most readily employed for hire by the proprietors, but their parents keep them at home for their own purposes, and appear quite averse to engage them in any kind of agricultural labour.

26. The interest in complexional distinctions would have long since died away had it not been for certain publications, which (for motives known only to the parties concerned) have endeavoured to keep alive (to the prejudice of the whole community) a spirit of jealousy and distrust between the two classes.

27. I am of the same opinion as expressed by me in my previous report, that there is not an individual of any respectability in the whole community who feels the slightest wish to return to the old system.

28. They are fully aware of the existence of the Assistant Court of Appeal.

29. I still am of the same opinion that the present system is by far more conducive to the interest of the labouring population than that prevailing during the employment of the late special magistrates.

30. The labourers are fully aware of the institution of the Courts of Reconciliation, and as they have hitherto most cheerfully attended those courts, when being tried as experimental, I have no doubt whatever of their giving their willing attendance now that they have been sanctioned by law, and a provision made for a recompense to be paid to the jurors for their time.

31. Since the act appointing Courts of Arbitration and Reconciliation has received Her Majesty's assent, I have not had an opportunity of holding a court; I have no doubt, however, of their beneficial tendency. I deeply regret that cases of assaults should have been pronounced as without the pale of their jurisdiction.

32. Replied to by No. 29.

33. The season is now advancing for the reaping of the crop, and no sugar has been made by the proprietors for the labourers; I fear, however, that very little will be made, as from the continued drought the crops throughout the island will be very short.

34. A considerable quantity of stock is possessed by the labourers, and the market is principally supplied by them.

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35. I regret to say that from the prevalence of drought very little provision has been planted, and I fear if the weather continues dry, that much scarcity will be experienced.

36. The prospects of the ensuing crop are very gloomy; the want of rain for nearly three months has greatly decreased the crop both of sugar and provisions: the yam crop generally has been a complete failure, and on some estates scarcely a hogshead of sugar will be made. The preparations for planting the next year's crop is good; the seasons have been very unfavourable.

37. There still continues among the labouring population a great demand for the luxuries of life, and on every occasion of festivity their entertainments exhibit a great display of dress, and the luxuries of the table.

38. I am of opinion that Friendly Societies are much better suited to the wants and habits of the labourers than Savings' Banks: there are eight of these societies in my district (besides several in Bridgetown), which are well supported, and most ably presided over by the different clergymen. On new year's day I was present at a most gratifying sight in the cathedral and parish church of this parish; the whole of the Friendly Societies belonging to this parish were assembled within its walls, amounting to upwards of two thousand, all of whom were dressed in a most becoming manner, and conducted themselves with the greatest propriety and decorum; they were addressed by the bishop, in a sermon explanatory of the nature of such societies, and appeared highly gratified with his discourse.

39. In no portion of Her Majesty's dominions are the peasantry a happier people than in the island of Barbados; where discontent has arisen among them, it has not been from any fault found with their situation, but from mischievous and false statements made to them by interested and designing individuals, who for their own sinister purposes, have endeavoured to make them dissatisfied with their condition, by holding out to them the inducement of higher wages and less work in Demerara and Trinidad; the fallacy, however, of these promises has been discovered, and emigration is fast working its own cure.

40. Since my appointment in February last, as police magistrate for the rural district of this parish, I am happy in having it in my power to bear testimony to the good understanding which has generally existed throughout the parish between employer and employed, and it affords me particular gratification in stating that very few complaints which have come before me for investigation, have originated with those parties. I would most respectfully suggest to "his Excellency" the necessity of recommending to the legislature to pass an act to prohibit furious and excessive riding and driving along the country roads, by which the persons and properties of Her Majesty's subjects are placed in jeopardy. I receive continued complaints constantly from the police and others on this subject; but as there are no means, either by fine or imprisonment, of punishing these offenders in a summary manner, offences of this nature are committed with impunity: the only remedy that exists to put a stop to this nuisance, is by sending the parties to the sessions; but persons are generally averse to incur the expense and trouble of a prosecution.

(Signed)

J. W. SPENCER, Police Magistrate.

No. 12.—*Parish of St. Michael, Bridgetown.*

1. Generally quiet and orderly, but indolent and idle.
2. Of petty thefts and assaults.
3. There was formerly much distrust of the employers, but it has greatly decreased.
4. Certainly the common interest between the employers and labourers has greatly produced a better feeling and understanding, without external intervention, and any such would be unwise and impolitic.
5. Assuredly more unwillingly than formerly, in spite of the deceitful allurements of emigration agents.
6. From 6 to 10, and from 11 to 4.
7. Task work is now seldom resorted to, in consequence of the aversion which the labourer has to the performance of any specific quantum of labour.
8. Two bits per diem on an average, and an increase of about a third more during the manufacturing of sugar; extra labour is met by liberal payment and allowances; of course head men on estates get considerably more.
9. So long as they continue to work on the estates to which they are located, they are so supplied, but on many plantations, when they take their labour therefrom, a charge of rent is made on them by agreement for house and land, during the period of such absence; some labourers are actual tenants of an extra portion of land, which they hire at a rate of from seven to ten pounds per acre.
10. The occupation of the house and privilege of planting and reaping the fruits of the land, is generally considered as a bonus for continued labour five days in the week, but it usually forms no part of the payment for daily labour.
11. The labourer is entirely averse to written agreements, and seldom or ever enters into any; he usually engages verbally, but for no specific period, and can quit when he likes. No records have been lodged in our office.
12. Answered by the preceding.
13. They are generally inclined to abuse and quarrel with each other, but without any lasting impressions of resentment.
14. We do not think the first act has had the beneficial effect anticipated, in consequence of the labourer not properly understanding it. The vagrant act must be beneficial.
15. We have not.
16. Within this last quarter the evil has greatly decreased; we have signed certificates with the churchwarden for 56 adult males, and 25 females, three of them taking an infant each. Of these emigrants, 35 were domestics for Trinidad, St. Lucia, and Demerara; 38 artisans for the same places and Dominica (to which place 10 artisans of the number have only gone for a short period, to perform some particular public work), three agricultural labourers, and five porters.
17. In many instances they have so returned; only the aged and infirm, and fathers and mothers of large families, seem attached to the soil they have been bred and born on.
18. Huckstering and petty trading, and as porters, and in employment on board ships in the bay,

dad and Demerara. The land holder of those colonies is so opulent, from the fertility of the soil and other incidental causes, that he is enabled to hire, at great cost, an agent, whose want of moral principle is such as to induce him to stickle at nothing, however base, to effect his purpose. He begins by paying well subordinate emissaries here, who make such representations to the labourer as cause him to be dissatisfied with his lot; they induce him to believe that his labour will be less, that he will get quadruple what he is earning here; that the climate is better; and above all, that if he dislikes his situation in the colonies, he will be returned to this country, free of expense, within a month, and a variety of other similar falsehoods; but so many emigrants have returned to this island, and exposed the delusions practised on them, that we are happy to say the tide of emigration in this parish is stopped, and even the Demerara agent, Mr. Day, with all his arts and ingenuity, has only taken off lately a few artisans and domestics, including some of the most worthless of our town population.

21. From 16 to 40. The males preponderate; few children have left.

22. No portion of our agricultural labour can be spared.

23. Very bad indeed; their parents are averse to bring them up to agricultural labour, or any proper pursuits; they are kept in idleness, and are supported by their parents in most cases.

24. There are six chapels or licensed places of public worship, besides the cathedral; these, altogether, will contain about 6,000 persons, and they are scarcely or ever full, therefore we should say there is accommodation. There are eleven public schools well attended, besides many private ones, and these all are increasing, from the indefatigable zeal and pious exertions of the lord bishop and his clergy, and all others in authority, to facilitate moral and religious instruction, and to extend the benefit of education.

25. They would be most readily employed and fostered by the owners and managers of estates would the parents allow it, but they are entirely averse to bring them up to agriculture, or any proper pursuit, keeping the children mostly at home for their own purposes.

26. They seem to repose more confidence in the white population, with a few exceptions.

27. None whatever; we conceive the authorities and gentry are doing all in their power, both by precept and example, to elevate the labourer in the scale of society, and that no individual of education or respectability would even wish a state of slavery prolonged.

28. Universally so, and we give them the most particular information on the subject, and afford them every facility to appeal from our decisions.

29. Most unquestionably preferable under this valuable court, who sit publicly in Bridgetown, under the immediate eye of the executive, and who perform their duty zealously for the public welfare, and most scrupulously for that of the labourers.

30. The labourers are now fully aware of the benefits they derive from this institution, and cheerfully give their attendance; they are becoming quite interested in its proceedings.

31. In Bridgetown, where our jurisdiction lies, such courts are of rare occurrence; but we are now fully aware, from the trial which has been made of them, that they will be of lasting advantage to the working classes.

32. Answered by reply to query 29th.

33. The crop has only partially commenced; but we fear the labourer will, in common with his employer, suffer from the long drought we have experienced.

34. This we cannot well ascertain, and more particularly belongs to the magistrate for the rural portion of the parish; the planter takes but little interest in making a return, and the labourer not wishing to let his worth be known; we, however, know that our market is chiefly supplied with poultry and pork by the labourers, and many of them possess cattle and sheep to some extent.

35. Answered by the preceding.

36. There was a full quantity planted in the usual season, but we fear that want of rain will render the yam and corn crop extremely little.

37. The cultivation has been most excellent; but the hopes of the planter have been frustrated by the long drought, and we fear the sugar crop will be diminished thereby more than one-third.

38. There has been a greatly increased demand for all luxuries, particularly in the articles of dress, food, and drink.

39. Such institutions would undoubtedly be beneficial; but it will be difficult to make the labourer understand the value to him of Savings' Banks: he is generally so thoughtless and extravagant as to take no care of to-morrow; he will better value Friendly Societies, and in fact does so, as many are in existence under the superintending care of the clergy, and the labourer is deriving much good from them.

40. On comparing their situation with that of the labouring population in other portions of the British dominions, we consider them beyond any doubt more happy than the peasantry of Ireland, and taking the climate into consideration, better off than that class of persons in England. The general diffusion of religious knowledge, and a better understanding of their moral duties and obligations, will soon render the peasantry of Barbados as happy and contented as they may be anywhere else.

41. None; let the labourer be left to himself, and not be imposed on by selfish and designing agitators, all asperities will cease, and things merge into a mutual and proper understanding between all parties.

(Signed)

E. H. MOORE,
R. HENLY,
C. GILL, } Police Magistrates.

APPENDIX.

GENERAL REPORTS FOR 1840,

FROM THE POLICE MAGISTRATES OF BARBADOS, ON THE WORKING OF THE FREE SYSTEM, AS FAR AS REGARDS THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EMPLOYERS AND THE LABOURERS, AND THE AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS OF THE SEVERAL PARISHES.

Parish of St. Philip.

Sir,—As regards the mutual relations of employers and labourers, there is a vast improvement, and I may say a reciprocal good understanding now existing between them. The agriculture of the estates

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in this parish surpasses in cultivation the late preceding years, which must prove that the labourers are more contented, settled in their habits, and satisfied in their condition. The cause of this improvement, I attribute to the total cessation of emigration, the labourers having discovered the shameful impositions practised on them by emigration agents and their emissaries, and at the same time finding they cannot better their condition by transporting themselves from their native land. The prospects of the crop now about to be reaped are very bad, entirely owing to the very long drought lately experienced in the island.

(Signed) P. L. APFLEWHAITE, Police Magistrate.

Parish of St. James.

It affords me much pleasure to be enabled to report a continuance of the improvement in the "Working of the free system so far as regards the mutual relations of employers and labourers," which I stated in my report of 31st of October, 1839, had taken place.

The fact of the interests of employers and labourers being nearly connected together, with the bad results which must ensue on those interests being opposed to each other, seems better understood; and for this reason I am sanguine that the "system" will continue steadily to improve.

As regards the agricultural prospects of this parish, I am sorry to say that in consequence of the almost unprecedented drought, the crop will be equally as short as the last. The cultivation has been very good and the falling-off must be attributed solely to the great want of rain experienced for several weeks.

(Signed) FRANCIS THORNHILL, Police Magistrate.

Parish of St. George.

I have the gratification to report that the present condition of this parish, as to the relations of the employers and labourers within it, has been and still continues to be quiet, industrious, and amicable; in part testimony whereof I must remark, that since the 31st of September last, only thirteen persons of the labouring class in this parish have applied to me for my signature to certificates of departure from this island to British Guiana or elsewhere.

With respect to the agricultural prospects, generally, of this parish, I am sorry to observe that they are at present very precarious, in consequence of dry weather, especially during this month and the last; which will of course occasion short crops of sugar and provisions throughout the parish.

(Signed) W. GRIFFITH, Police Magistrate.

Parish of St. John.

The agricultural condition of the parish has very materially suffered from a continued drought during the last two months, which will very much shorten the present sugar crop, and has nearly entirely destroyed the provision crops of the season, leaving no prospect of raising food for the next three months at least. This has rendered the labouring population almost entirely dependent on the town for their supplies.

The expected failure of this year's crop is attributed in no way to any deficiency in the labour system—the cultivation of lands for the ensuing crop being excellent throughout the parish.

The labouring population are certainly more steady at their work, and less subject to those frequent fits of discontent so common amongst them since the abolition; yet the mutual relations of employer and labourer continue fettered by the system of land tenancy as connected with labour; and although this undue advantage in their compact for labour, on the side of the employer, is in a great measure counterbalanced by the competition for labour amongst planters, the system seems productive of evil, by rendering the labouring population less attached to their homes, which they hold, or not, at a day's notice, and tends to discourage an outlay for the improvement of their habitations. A system of independent jobbing is rapidly growing out of the present state of things, and, by their independent gangs, a great portion of the most laborious agricultural work is performed.

Emigration, which some months ago occasioned considerable excitement in the minds of the labouring class, by means of undue exertions of interested persons, seems at present to be very justly appreciated and understood by that class, and the dearly bought experience by numbers of them will, I trust, prevent the possibility of their being again deluded.

(Signed) HENRY PILGRIM, Police Magistrate.

Parish of Christ Church.

In making my report on the present occasion, I regret to state that the "highly satisfactory" working of the free system, which it was my pleasing duty to remark on in October 1839, as regarded "a good understanding between the employers and labourers," has unhappily been at times interrupted in many plantations, owing as I firmly believe, to the artful designs of wicked and heartless individuals, seeking to sow discord and dissatisfaction amongst the labouring population, in order the more readily to succeed in seducing them to leave the island, under the delusive hopes of bettering their condition in other lands, and now particularly British Guiana.

The agricultural prospects of the parish are extremely discouraging, occasioned by the continuance of severe drought during the last three months; there is, and must be in consequence, a great scarcity

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crimps, under the design of emigration agents, not been permitted to disseminate discontent among the peasantry. This evil however has in a great measure cured itself, and the delusive veil which concealed the actual condition of those who became early victims to it, has been removed by the return of the more fortunate persons who have escaped the pestilence and destructive malaria of the southern colonies of Demerara and Berbice. It is perhaps unnecessary to allude to the causes which encouraged the operation of the unfavourable impressions on the minds of the labourers, by which such influence was obtained by the emigration crimps. It is sufficient to observe that the provisions of the contract act had been artfully distorted to create discontent among the emancipated population; and the proprietary body, warranted by these strong signs of opposition to the fulfilment of the act, prudently resolved not to enforce the labourers to an acceptance of any of its provisions, and this will account to his Excellency for the several remarks I have already made as to the contract act having been disregarded, both by labourers and proprietors. Agreements of a verbal nature have been substituted in all cases upon the several estates within my district, and those appear to be fully and clearly comprehended by all parties. I have not had a reference made to me of any serious differences between the proprietors and labourers, requiring my interference. That resistance to the orders of the proprietors or their substitutes frequently occurs, is not any matter for surprise, and such occurrences are usually accommodated by the parties themselves. Our agricultural prospects are at present in an unfavourable condition, but I have no cause to doubt, when it pleases the Dispenser of all good to bless the colony with a genial succession of rain, that the peasantry will assume industrious action, and avail themselves of such blessings. It is strictly incumbent on all who exercise influence in the colony to appease irritation among the labourers, and I have no doubt if the proprietary body and the labourers are not injudiciously interfered with, that the blessings of the free system will be rapidly developed to both parties.

(Signed) J. C. B. SCANTLEBURY, Police Magistrate.

Parish of St. Thomas.

Sir,—It is very gratifying to observe the general good feeling which subsists between the labourers and their employers, the only impediment to which arises, at present, from the unsettled state of the rent system.

I beg leave here to observe, that I continue my old plan of visiting the estates whenever any the slightest dissatisfaction arises on them, and generally am fortunate enough to reconcile the parties; and if it were not, as I have before said, for the vague and irregular rent charges, there would now exist no obstacle to a state of perfect harmony throughout the district.

The agricultural prospect of the sugar crop now to be reaped is very gloomy; and I am quite well assured that it will not realize what last year's did. This is only to be attributed to the long and distressing drought; for I must say that the industry of the Barbados planters and labourers can never be surpassed in any part of the world.

Provisions, I am sorry to say, are at this time very scarce, and I am afraid will be, ere long, extravagantly dear; we shall have to look, as we did the last year, to the American markets for supplies, which I hope it may be able abundantly to afford us.

(Signed) J. CAREW, Police Magistrate.

Parish of St. Joseph.

To all such as feel a real and deep interest in the labouring population of this colony, the close of the present, and prospects of the ensuing, year, must afford a most gratifying and convincing proof of the disposition of all the elements of our community to settle down into one compact and harmonizing body. We have even their strong tendency steadily prevailing in spite of agitation and other unlawful means to delude and excite the ignorance of our population, under the speciousness of philanthropy, disinterestedness, and friendship; nor has this remote and just parish been left unvisited by the incendiaries of peace for their own one-sided and party views.

In taking a retrospect of the past year, it would be impossible to pass unnoticed the attempts, on the part of emigration agents, to sow dissension and discord among the labouring classes of this island, to meet the ends of their own aggrandizement.

Lying and tempting falsehoods have been actively circulated in all shapes from the press, as well as the paid mouths of insubordinate agents; and these have found their way to every hearth in this colony. Magnificent promises have been held out to entice the labourer from his country, or to disgust him with all he had ever valued in it; but the cheat has been fairly exposed, and now that the excitement is passing off, a better spirit promises to shed its influence over this persecuted colony, and tranquillity is once again prevailing.

I cannot here omit to notice what, in my opinion, is the only remaining source of irritation between the proprietor and labourer. The proprietor allows a house to his labourer so long as his service is constant, but as soon as ever he is discontented, working on an estate other than that on which he is located, a rent for the day he is absent is charged. Not only is a rent charged on the master of the family if he be absent, but the same rent is required of every subordinate member living in the same house, if there be the same reason for it. To cure this evil, which, as I have before observed, is the source of much unpleasant feeling, I see but one remedy, and that is at once to affix a permanent rent on each house, according to its value; this must raise the price of wages in some degree, but as the proprietor receives a rent, neither party, in a pecuniary view, will be losers by it.

Another important end that it will answer, will be the destroying that jealousy that exists from the distinct rate at which the same labour is paid, the located labourer receiving two bits per day, whilst the wandering and almost roofless labourer receives three bits. The planter at the same time will be able to command his supply of labourers from the tenants on his own estate, and the labourer enjoy unrestricted his natural right of disposing of his own labour at pleasure. Time only I fear can afford us any relief in this respect, but whenever it does come (and the sooner the better), our free system will be complete.

Whilst other parts of the island have suffered most severely from drought, the parish of St. Joseph is not without the cheering prospect of some return, though moderate, to renew the industry of the agriculturists. Its fertility of soil, and coolness of temperature, have obtained for it this advantage. Grateful for this blessing, it looks forward to better years, and under the paternal care of his Excellency's administration, to maintain the character for quiet and good order it has already so deservedly merited.

(Signed) J. D. MAYCOCK, Police Magistrate.

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Parish of St. Lucy.

Sir,—A reciprocal good feeling, I am happy to report, exists between the employers and labourers ; but with their own class the latter are much disposed to be litigious ; no change has taken place in the condition of the labouring population of this parish since my report, dated 4th of November, 1839.

The agricultural prospects throughout the island have been blighted by long and continued drought, and I do not think the labourers more energetic in the performance of their respective duties.

(Signed) A. H. MORRIS, Police Magistrate.

Parish of St. Andrew.

Sir,—At the close of the present quarter, and the termination of my first year's administration of the duties of a police magistrate, I feel considerable satisfaction in stating that no candidate of any description has applied to me for a certificate to emigrate during the present quarter ; on the contrary, the labouring population appear to be annoyed if any accidental allusion is made to it ; the number of labourers in this parish have been on the increase for several months past ; the cultivation throughout this parish is in a much greater state of forwardness than for several preceding years ; the labourers generally more regular and constant at their duties. The taking of rent permanently is almost abolished, and a much better state of things meets the eye almost every where ; twice during the year has the crop been impeded by drought ; the general amount of production will, nevertheless, be double that of the past year.

(Signed) J. S. BASCOM, Police Magistrate.

Parish of St. Michael.

Sir,—I have the honour to state that there has existed generally throughout this district a mutual good understanding between the labourers and their employers, and when any difference has occurred it has been of so trifling a nature as to be easily arranged. Happily for the comfort and prosperity of the labourers of this parish, very few were found willing to try the experiment of emigration, and consequently have not had to endure the sufferings and privations which too many of that class of persons have had to encounter ; the emigration from this parish has been principally confined to the artisans and domestics.

As regards the agricultural prospects of the parish, they are very discouraging ; the severe drought which has existed for the last several months, having greatly injured the present crop of canes, and almost entirely destroyed the yam and corn crop ; and the quantity of potatoes which were planted, having been nearly all consumed, there is, and must be for some time, a great scarcity of ground provisions, not only in this parish, but I fear generally throughout the country.

(Signed) J. W. SPENCER, Police Magistrate.

Private Secretary's Office, 11th Dec., 1841.

Sir,—I am instructed by the Governor to request that you will be pleased to communicate to me, for his Excellency's consideration, a report, embracing the circumstances that have fallen under your observation connected with the introduction of the emigration system into this island, and with its effects upon the condition of the labouring population.

The governor wishes to ascertain, 1st, whether you have reason to believe that the labourers were dissatisfied with the operation of the act passed upon this subject during the administration of his Excellency Sir Lionel Smith ?

2. Whether previously to the external influence exerted in favour of emigration, it ever came to your knowledge, since the emancipation of 1834 and 1838, that the labouring classes complained of being retained in Barbados, contrary to their inclination, by the undue severity of restrictive laws ; i. e. whether any excitement that may have occurred amongst the peasantry appears to you to have been the original cause, rather than the artificial consequence, of foreign interference with the relations subsisting between them and their employers ?

3. Does it seem to you that the labouring classes are dissatisfied with the administration of justice in this colony ; or driven to emigrate by any acts of oppression on the part of their employers or of the constituted authorities ?

4. By what means does it appear to you that the labourers have been impressed with the belief that the performance of nine hours' work per diem would make them revert to the condition of slaves, or that those remaining in this island would be reduced to that predicament on its approaching surrender by the British Government to some foreign power ?

5. What is the description of agency employed in obtaining recruits from amongst the labouring population of Barbados for removal to other colonies ?

6. What inducements are held out by the emigration agents, to the persons whom they are desirous of enticing from their houses ?

7. Are you of opinion that falsehood and fraud have been resorted to with the view of prevailing upon the Barbados labourers to emigrate ?

8. What opportunities have you possessed of communicating with Barbados labourers who have returned to the colony, after trying the experiment of emigration ?

9. What has been the nature of their testimony, and have they given you to understand that those remaining abroad are comfortably situated and contented with their new position ?

10. Is the ascendancy acquired over the minds of the peasantry by the emigration agents general, and is that ascendancy much strengthened by the influence of the seditious press ?

11. Do you conceive that the minds of the peasantry will be permanently unsettled, in con-

Barbados, January 8th, 1841.

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Sir,—I have to acknowledge your communication of the 11th instant, and, in reply to it, have endeavoured as briefly as possible to answer the questions in the most impartial manner for his Excellency's information, which I beg you to do me the honour to lay before his Excellency.

1. I am certain that the labourers were not dissatisfied; indeed, I believe they knew nothing about it, and could not, therefore, in any way feel any ill effects from the act passed during the administration of Sir Lionel Smith.

2. I believe that the labourers had no inclination whatever to emigrate, until speculators came to the island for the purpose of enticing them away. These said men used every exertion to exalt British Guiana at the expense of Barbados. They commenced their work by attacking the laws, their administration, and all respectable persons and authorities in the island; thus endeavouring to create a ferment, that they might the more easily act their part. I refer particularly to the hand-bills industriously circulated throughout the island by paid agents of Thomas Day; men whom he evidently selected for his purpose from their characters. These were paid by the head; I state this on the authority of Mr. Osborne, who informed me that he refused an offer of five dollars a head for as many as he could procure. A similar offer at the same price was made me by a Mr. Bush, of Trinidad, which I also refused, foreseeing the very ill consequences of such a traffic. It is not to be wondered at, that thus acted on, they should become unsettled, and wish to leave the island, regardless alike of those ties and local attachments which so strongly characterize the labouring population of this island. On being appointed jointly with Mr. Sheridan, to inform them of the nature of the experiment they were about to make, we found that they were wholly ignorant of their intended step, that they had been impressed with the idea of amassing a fortune for themselves, with which they might soon return to their native land and live at ease. In a short time, however, we discovered that they came provided with answers to the warnings we had been previously giving, which was soon explained by the admission of some of them, that Mr. Day had advised them not to listen to any thing that we might tell them. I had an opportunity of visiting, immediately after the emancipation of 1838, several of the estates on which differences existed, necessarily resulting from so great a change; my reception by the labourers was uniformly most kind; attentively did they listen to all I said, and I never failed to have the happiness of seeing a reconciliation easily effected; many of the complaints of both parties were of a trivial nature. Hence it is evident that the excitement respecting emigration has arisen solely from foreign interference, and in no way from an undue severity of restrictive laws.

3. The best answer to be given to this question, is a reference to the returns made by magistrates of the number of cases tried before them, and also of the returns from the Court of Appeal, with a comparison of the decisions altered by the latter. I have not seen the slightest cause to believe that the administration of justice has operated in any way to cause emigration, which I wholly attribute to misrepresentation on that subject by the paid agent and his few advocates.

4. This report originated with the men who were employed to procure labourers. They first endeavoured to persuade them that if they worked nine hours for their employers, it would be the same as becoming slaves, and this was easily first caught up by the ignorant and credulous, and so spread through their friends; and when this error was discovered by them, the same paid agents cunningly devised the rumour respecting the surrender of the island to the French, who would reduce the labourers here (as in their own colonies) again to slavery, as an inducement for them to leave this. This I was informed of before credible witnesses by some of the labourers themselves, and I found it generally believed, and was not always able to succeed in undeceiving them on this point.

5. The persons employed have been of the very worst description, notorious to every one for their irregularities and bad characters; ready for any falsehoods, so they could impose upon the credulity of the people, as they were well paid for that purpose.

6. Inducements of a very favourable nature, such as exorbitant wages and light work, the easy acquisition of tracts of land, food of the very best description at the lowest price, luxuries of all kinds, pleasure and enjoyment of every description, fancy balls, &c. In addition to these, which they were to meet with on their arrival at British Guiana, open houses were kept here for their reception and entertainment, where they were constantly regaled with feasting, music, and dancing, until their departure. I consider this latter plan as that which operated most powerfully with them; they were also supplied here by the agents with small advances of money, to be repaid in labour in British Guiana, for which I would observe, security was taken of them here.

7. Falsehoods of the most glaring description, as I could substantiate, have been resorted to for that purpose, as many of them have, when too late, proved to their cost; such as their giving a note of hand, purporting to be some dollars' value per month, by Mr. Day, for the support of the aged family or children left behind, when there was no sum mentioned in the note of hand. The obtaining tickets in a very fraudulent manner, feigning names to obtain passports, so as that they might be transferable.

8. Passports, &c. the promise of a free passage back to Barbados should they (the emigrants) not like British Guiana, which, excepting in a few cases, was positively refused when applied for; and, on the contrary, obstacles were thrown in their way, when they were led to expect every facility and accommodation.

9. The emigrants that have returned informed me, that although the wages in British Guiana are higher than in Barbados, yet the common necessities of life being so very dear, they could not save from their earnings as much as they were in the habit of doing in their native land; that very many of the emigrants were forced to contract debts to meet their necessary demands, and that although most anxious to return, they were unable to do so; and that every advantage was taken of their situation, and thus they remained in British Guiana. This information is corroborated by the commander of a mail-boat, who humanely brought back, free of expense, very many of the emigrants who had been refused by the Emigration Society any assistance towards their return. And both he and the returned strongly affirm that numbers of those remaining implored to be taken away, and nearly all that they knew of were in a state very far from comfortable, owing to their wants, to the different system of cultivation, and to the very unhealthy climate, from which latter cause very many, I was told by them, had perished; and to show that this is true I would refer to the great annual decrease of the labouring population of British Guiana during the time of slavery.

10. The ascendancy acquired over the minds of the people was both great and general, and I regret to say that the press, advocating the cause of Mr. Day by false representations, has contributed greatly towards inducing many to leave the island. And I cannot help adding that the editor of the

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Liberal stated publicly that he did so because he thought the emigration law restrictive, although he had previously declared that the emigration system was the worst thing that could happen to the labourer of this island, and he believed that three out of every four would die; this he stated openly at a public meeting.

11. I am of opinion that for some considerable time their minds will be unsettled, being so well acquainted with their characters from the very long experience I have had (upwards of 20 years), going amongst them as their teacher and as their friend, being consulted by them from every part of the land in their difficulties.

12. I fear that the effects of this traffic is very likely to be felt for a considerable time, if only on account of the dissensions it has occasioned, and the severing of those ties which bind men together, such as between husbands and wives, and employers and employed, friend and friend.

I have, &c. &c.

(Signed)

JOSEPH THORNE, Assistant Harbour Master.

Felix Bedingfeld, Esq., Private Secretary, &c. &c.

Private Secretary's Office, 11th Dec., 1840.

Sir,—The Governor is desirous of receiving from you, made up to the 31st inst. inclusive, a report upon the state of this community during "the present year 1840."

You will be pleased to explain—

1. The condition of the crops for this period, and the present existing prospects under that head, and whether the cultivation has been satisfactorily carried on.

2. The nature of the relations, whether amicable or otherwise, generally prevailing between the proprietary body and the labouring population; and where any misunderstandings have arisen, to what cause they are in your opinion to be attributed.

3. Whether the fire raisings that have occurred, have chiefly affected the possessions of proprietors, or of the labourers themselves.

4. Whether before invitations were held out to them from abroad, and strictures pronounced upon the laws regulating the departures of persons from the island, you have reason to believe that the labourers of Barbados ever manifested dissatisfaction with these enactments, or complained of their being under any restriction.

5. Whether you think that the labouring population have been fairly dealt with, or deceived, by the agents employed in endeavouring to induce them to leave their native country.

6. To what causes do you ascribe the great extent to which emigration from this island had at one time attained, and its subsequent diminution.

7. Whether according to your experience the experiment of free labour in this island would not have terminated as successfully as it commenced, and the occasional differences between the employers and employed have been adjusted by internal means as formerly, but for the foreign interference exerted with a view to the encouragement of emigration.

8. Whether in your judgment there is a surplus population beyond the demand for labour in this island.

9. Whether it appears to you that the agitation and promotion of a system of emigration promises to prove advantageous to the general cause of the labourers, or to the health and happiness in particular of the Barbados peasantry.

I have, &c. &c.

(Signed)

FELIX BEDINGFELD, Private Secretary.

Lieutenant-Colonel Connor, Inspector General Police, &c. &c. &c.

Inspector General's Office, 2nd January, 1841.

Sir,—In obedience to his Excellency's commands, contained in your letter of 11th ultimo, I have the honour of forwarding you answers to the questions comprised in that communication.

I have, &c. &c.

(Signed)

ALEXANDER CONNOR, Inspector General's Office.

Honourable Felix Bedingfeld.

REPORT UPON THE STATE OF BARBADOS DURING THE YEAR 1840.

Answers to Questions.

1. The condition of the crops cannot be stated as favourable; at the early part of the season the prospects were propitious, but owing to the drought in the after part, particularly in the month of November (which passed over without any rains), a great check has been experienced to the growth and ripening of the canes; in the parish of St. Philip, one large field of canes of ten acres in extent has been dug up and given to the cattle, or used as manure. The yam crops have failed considerably, and I understand, should the remainder of this month and the next pass over without rains, that the forthcoming potatoe crop will totally fail.

2. Generally speaking, the understanding between the employer and employed is amicable, and where a misunderstanding has arisen, it is in many instances attributable to a demand for higher wages on the part of the labourer, which the proprietor refusing, occasions the other to transfer his services to an estate where the higher pay will be given.

3. The fire raisings which have occurred, have chiefly affected the labourers, and in many instances originated from jealousy.

4. I have no reason to believe that the labouring population ever manifested dissatisfaction at any enactments that were in force for the regulation of persons departing from this island, before any invitations from Mr. Day were held out to them to emigrate from this island to Demerara; and had not such invitations been placed before them, they would most probably have remained in the same disposition they were previous to the arrival of Mr. Day and his emissaries, who sedulously, and no doubt designedly, informed the labourer that the laws were unduly restrictive.

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6. I attribute the great extent of emigration from this island to the flattering public statements made, by private emigration agents, of the "magnificent colony of Demerara," and the great but false allurements of bettering their condition, held out by those unprincipled agents to an ignorant and too credulous peasantry, who had just shaken off the last remnant of slavery; and I attribute the diminution of emigration to the return of emigrants, who, from experience purchased by many at the sacrifice of health, placed matters in their true colours before their friends and relations.

7. There is not the slightest doubt on my mind that the employer and employed would have thoroughly understood each other long ere this, had not Mr. Day and his emissaries visited this island, which for some time caused a great excitement amongst the peasantry, and disturbed them from the habits of regularity which were daily becoming more confirmed.

8. I should say not, for the greater portion of the younger branches of the labourers who were formerly employed at field work, have now relinquished that occupation, and are in daily attendance for instruction at the several schools throughout the island.

9. It appears to me that the system of emigration which has been going on in this island of late, is directly opposed to humanity, and most decidedly to the health and happiness of the Barbados labourer.

(Signed)

ALEXANDER CONNOR, Inspector General of Police.

(No. 146.)

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord JOHN RUSSELL, to the Officer administering the Government at Barbados.

Sir,

Downing Street, 9th August, 1841.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 1, of the 17th of June, enclosing a letter from the Judges of the Assistant Court of Appeal, together with the Reports of the Police Magistrates, for the five quarters ending 31st of December, 1840.

I regret to hear that the weather has been again unfavourable to the growth of sugar, and that the crop is expected, in consequence, to fall below the average. It is satisfactory, however, to be assured at the same time that this result is in no degree to be attributed to the want of labour; but that, on the contrary, a decided improvement has been evinced in the character and conduct of the labouring class.

The evils arising from the system of tenancy, which still prevails in Barbados, have been experienced in most of the West India Colonies, and have led all the best and most impartial judges to recommend a different arrangement, by which the labourer should hold his cottage and grounds under a lease for a fixed period, subject to no condition but that of paying the stipulated rent. In many places this arrangement has been tried, and has always been found to answer much better than the other. I am glad to observe a growing opinion in favour of it among the Police Magistrates; and I hope that some of the proprietors in Barbados will be induced to make the experiment.

You state in your Despatch that the Magistrates have been instructed to prepare reports upon the new series of questions once every year. My intention was, that they should be made once every half-year, *i. e.*, at the commencement and at the close of the annual crop; and (unless the difference be owing merely to a clerical error) I have to request that you will issue a fresh instruction to that effect. You will also request the Judges of the Assistant Court of Appeal to forward each series separately with their report, and not to delay them, as in this instance, till the end of the year.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. RUSSELL.

To the Officer administering the Government at Barbados.

(No. 8.)

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DARLING, to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbados, August 8th, 1841.

REFERRING to your Lordship's Circular Despatch of the 22nd of April last, I do myself the honour of enclosing to your Lordship the accompanying Return of Stipendiary Magistrates, serving in the Island of Barbados.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

HENRY C. DARLING,
Lieut.-Governor, Administering General Government.

To the Right Hon. Lord John Russell,

&c. &c. &c.

S

No. 8.

Return.

August 2nd, 1841.

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Enclosure in No. 8.

RETURN of STIPENDIARY and POLICE MAGISTRATES serving in the ISLAND of BARBADOS.—2nd August, 1841.

Names.	Date of Appointment.	Under what Act or Statute appointed.	District, &c.	By whom appointed.
*Adam Cuppage . . *Isaac J. Tinling . . *Joseph Garroway . .	1838. 1st August	An Act to authorise the appointment of an Assistant Court of Appeal.	Judges of the Assistant Court of Appeal for the Island.	Sir E. J. M. Macgregor.
Edward H. Moore . . Christopher Gill . . Robert E. Hendy . .	1834. 31st July	An Act to establish a Police in Bridgetown, in the parish of St. Michael, 29th July, 1834.	Police Magistrates, Bridgetown.	Sir Lionel Smith.
Joseph P. Evelyn . . P. L. Applewhaite . . Henry Pilgrim . . John Carew . . Alexander H. Morris . . Francis Thornhill . . James S. Bascom . .	7th Jan., 1839 10th Jan., 1839 3rd Jan., 1839 7th Jan., 1839 17th May, 1838 12th Feb., 1840	An Act to appoint an additional number of Police Magistrates for this Island, 1839.	Christ Church St. Philip St. John St. Thomas St. Lucy St. James St. Andrew	Sir E. J. M. Macgregor.
John W. Spencer . .	"	An Act to revive, amend, and continue in force an Act to appoint an additional number of Police Magistrates for this Island.	St. Michael (Rural)	Sir E. J. M. Macgregor.
J. C. B. Scantlebury . . William Griffith . . J. D. Maycock . .	16th April, 1840 " " 26th Sept., 1840	An Act to appoint an additional number of Police Magistrates for this Island, 1839.	St. Peter St. George St. Joseph	

* Stipendiary Magistrates.

E. H. SENHOUSE, Acting Colonial Secretary.

(No. 15.)

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DARLING, to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbados, Sept. 16th, 1841.

No. 9.

I HAVE the honour to enclose Copies of Reports from the Police Magistrates of Barbados, on the state of their several parishes, accompanied by observations thereon from the Judges of the Assistant Court of Appeal, as required in your Lordship's Despatch of the 22nd of April last, general No. 11, addressed to His Excellency the late Governor-General.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY C. DARLING,

Lieut.-Governor, Administering the General Government.

To the Right Hon. Lord John Russell,

&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 9.

(COPY).

Encl. in No. 9.

QUESTIONS directed by Lord JOHN RUSSELL in a DESPATCH to his Excellency Sir EVAN J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Bart., Governor of the Windward Islands, dated 22nd April, 1841.

1. General character and condition of the peasantry; noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship in their manners, habits, or casts; in the rate of mortality; or in the nature and frequency of offences.

2. Relations between the peasantry and the proprietors; adverting especially to the condition of tenancy on estates; to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders; to the rising up of new hamlets and villages; and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

3. New institutions,—as churches, schools, savings' banks, benefit societies, &c.

4. State and prospect of cultivation; noticing the supply of labour, and the rate of wages; the produce of last crop, and the promise of the next; the weather, &c.

5. Improvements and discoveries ; as for instance, any new machine by which labour is saved ; any improved method of cultivation ; any new manufacture, &c.
6. State of internal traffic ; noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

ANSWERS.

No. 1.

Police Office, St. Lucy, 6th July, 1841.

1. The labourers are still indolent and irregular at their work, and are disposed to be very litigious amongst themselves. They continue fully as much so as when in a state of slavery. No change has particularly taken place in their manners, habits, or castes, since their emancipation. The rate of mortality and frequency of offences are much the same. The number of complaints investigated in St. Lucy's parish are near or about fifty monthly, and consist chiefly of petty debt, injury to property, theft, and breaches of the peace.

2. An amicable feeling continues to exist between the proprietors and labourers. The labourers' condition is as healthy as that of any other class of inhabitants in the island. The industrious have houses and land on every estate gratuitously ; and those given to indolence, of which there are a great many, seek lodgings with their families at night on the estates where the families are located. None are freeholders. Many of those inclined to roaming have renewed the disposition lately to go to British Guiana, notwithstanding the sufferings there of the emigrants who returned about six months ago.

3. Two new chapels have been erected in this parish since the abolition of slavery, in addition to the former church. There are numerous schools about it. No savings' bank or benefit societies. The friendly societies now being established are likely to be beneficial, and are promoted under the direction of the zealous rector of our parish.

4. There is a fair spring of young canes, planted for the crop of the next year, but their yielding a favourable return will naturally depend on the future state of the weather, which of late has been very unfavourable, and the careful clearing of weeds, &c., by the labourers. The supply of them is very deficient, as none will engage in agriculture that can obtain a living in any other way. The wages are two bits per day for nine hours, and extra payment proportionately for any work performed beyond that time. The produce of the last crop was very small, and that of the next quite uncertain.

5. None in this parish.

6. No internal traffic, except peddling hucksters' shops, where articles of food, chiefly American produce, are disposed of.

(Signed)

A. H. MORRIS, Police Magistrate.

No. 2.

Police Office, St. Peter, 3rd July, 1841.

1. The peasantry in this parish are of industrious habits ; and since the dissolution of the apprenticeship there has been an improvement in their manners and habiliments. The rate of mortality cannot be correctly ascertained, as there is no census, nor are there any means of distinguishing the peasantry from others by the register of burials. The most frequent offences are petty assault and battery, and petty theft. Crime of magnitude is of rare occurrence.

2. To secure the important and indispensable supply of labour, a village is established on each estate, by the erection of comfortable dwellings ; and a portion of cultivable land is assigned to each labourer. For this privilege and accommodation no charge is made against the labourer, unless he quits the property to bestow his services elsewhere ; nor is any charge enforced in case of sickness, or when he obtains the proprietor's sanction to be absent. These matters are clearly understood on both sides, and the system works well, in insuring continuity of labour, under the rude and imperfect knowledge which the late emancipated labourer has formed of his freedom of action. Many of the late emancipated peasantry have acquired property to a small extent, but none have yet established themselves as freeholders.

3. Four schools (two of which are licensed for the performance of Divine service) have been established under the superintendence of the clergy since the dissolution of the apprenticeship ; also a Wesleyan chapel and school ; and several private schools under the direction of other persons. There is one benefit society, and no savings' bank in this parish.

4. The state of cultivation is good. The supply of labour (owing to emigration) is diminished. The rate of wages varies from one shilling and three-pence, to one shilling and sixpence three-farthings per day, currency. The produce of the last crop (1841) is 1,260 tons of sugar. The prospect of the ensuing crop is uncertain. The weather (after a long drought) at present favourable.

5. None.

6. Internal traffic, for the last two years, has been very much depressed, owing to short crops of the staple produce. The briskness or depression of trade is more or less influenced by the quantity and price of sugar. Cotton goods from Manchester are chiefly in demand.

(Signed)

J. C. B. SCANTLEBURY, Police Magistrate.

No. 3.

Police Office, St. Andrew's, July 31st, 1841.

1. The peasantry may be considered generally courteous to those by whom they are not employed ; after they enter into employment, either as domestics or for agricultural purposes, a

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very opposite deportment is not unfrequently evinced by them towards their employers. Their regular attendance on the forms of public worship would entitle them to the appellation of being a religious people; but the criminal intercourse of the sexes, when even married, contradicts their observance of moral obligations; and they are contentious and quarrelsome with each other. Their general condition may be esteemed comfortable, and they might have acquired more money if they would have worked for it. Their manners generally are more refined since their emancipation; they are fond of dancing and other amusements, and expend much of their time and money in the indulgence of this inclination. They gamble also. The three years since their general emancipation have been peculiarly healthy, except the interruption by the introduction of the small-pox. I am nevertheless inclined to think the number has increased, although we have had no census, and are constantly without any positive proof of the fact. I do not think the children as well taken care of as during the state of slavery; at least all systematic arrangements for such a purpose have been put an end to by the parents. They have little hesitation to incur debt. The payment is frequently enforced by an appeal to the law.

2. I do not think the relations between the peasantry and their employers are marked by any hostility. The proprietors have made great pecuniary sacrifices to improve and increase it, in the erection of cottages and other valuable indulgences conceded to them, but the influence of migration, emigration, and other causes constantly interfering with the regular attendance of the labourer to his engagements and his duties, tends to interrupt the general harmony of their relations, and not unfrequently terminates by separation, as I conceive to the pecuniary disadvantage of both.

The general condition of the tenantry on estates is both profitable and advantageous to the tenant, although seemingly at work at reduced wages. The cottage and land enjoyed by such persons, with the privilege to rear stock, and get sugar reaped generally free of rent or abatement, is more than commensurate to any rate of wages paid to non-located labourers. This pecuniary sacrifice is made to the tenant under a conviction of the necessity for a daily supply of labour, and with the view of obtaining it from persons located on the property and deriving these advantages, and yet the intention is frustrated by motives and means which the proprietors cannot always overcome, and by which he sustains considerable loss.

The labourers are very ambitious of possessing land, and some have purchased in various quantity; but as soon as they become proprietors, with a very few exceptions, they cease to labour but on their own land; some few limited hamlets on rented lands have been attempted. The grant of the land is made on an express condition that a certain amount of labour shall be rendered the proprietors weekly, and all surplus time not required for the cultivation of the grant, will be paid for at the rate allowed non-located labourers, yet this does not insure the services of the renters on the same property from which the grant is derived. This has not been an experiment of long duration in many places; my impression is, that it will prove a failure, and I do not think that it was advisable, from an impression, early entertained by the labouring population, and to which many still adhere, that Her Majesty's government would appropriate a portion of the land of the proprietors of this island to their use, independent of any control from the lawful owners of such land; at present the advantage is very much in keeping of the labourer. The avoidance of the local act to regulate the "hiring of servants," exonerates the labourer from any responsibility for quitting his service at will; if he has occupied a plot of land and a cottage by a parole agreement, he is protected against summary ejectment; and if he has due notice to quit, although he may not be a renter, his cultivation must be appraised and paid for by the proprietor, although the crop may not be of a nature to yield the proprietor the smallest benefit or pecuniary recompense; yet a regular and adequate supply of labour cannot be calculated on. The population is abundant, and there are but few proprietors who have not an ample number located, if their services could be brought into regular operation.

3. One new chapel and two schools of the church of England have been established in this parish since the general emancipation, in 1838, and a friendly society under the superintendence of the rector of the parish; one Wesleyan chapel, and a school appended; these are numerous attended, but the parents of the children are strenuously opposed to any attempt to teach their children to labour for subsistence, and have frequently removed them from school in consequence of the slightest approach to such an object.

4. The state of cultivation is by no means what it used to be during slavery; the amount of production has naturally diminished in consequence, and the scarcity of the necessities of life during the past and present year, prolonged as it has been by protracted drought, has been productive of great difficulty to the humble classes of society. During the apprenticeship system, there was a peculiar falling-off in the cultivation of this parish; at the conclusion of it a large number of the estates were in pasture and ruin; a beneficial change in the appearance of cultivation (by extreme assiduity and a heavy pecuniary charge for labour) has been effected since; but I am of opinion this course cannot be persevered in, inasmuch as if the cost of production maintains a disproportion to the relative profit, the failure of one or two crops from any adventitious cause will be quite sufficient to render the proprietor a bankrupt, and put a period to his exertions. A sufficient supply of labour can be obtained in this parish so long as you will submit to receive it at an exorbitant price. The wages of non-located labourers fluctuates from a quarter of a dollar or one shilling and seven-pence-halfpenny sterling, to four bits or two shillings and eight-pence sterling, per day. Job work is generally so improperly executed as to interfere materially with the adoption of it. The amount of the crop which has just been finished reaping, is greater than that of the preceding year—little can be said as to any definite promise of the ensuing one. We have had nearly seven months of almost uninterrupted drought. The preparation for the young crop and the planting of it was effected in very good season in this parish,—its

attainment of successful maturity depends entirely on a succession of the rains which commenced in July, and our not being visited with hurricanes.

5. The few experiments which have been attempted by machinery for practical cultivation in this island, I do not think have realized the expectations of the projectors; nor do I think it probable, from the diversified nature of the cultivation and production of this island, that machinery can be rendered extensively applicable; experiments to this end have been made during the period of slavery. Considerable improvement has been effected in the roads near Bridgetown, the capital of the island.

6. A very large number of the labouring population have become hawkers and pedlars; bakeries and retail shops of every description have sprung up on the lines of the highway; while the desertion of labourers, and the high rate of wages, added to the irregular manner of rendering the labour, has led to the adoption of foreign supplies for the subsistence of the population, in place of the abundance which was originated by local production when labourers were under control. This new stimulus is constantly augmenting the number of shopkeepers, and keeps the population dependent on foreign supply. The production of the land is diminished to its proprietors, and the cost of living to the labourer leads to increased desire to augment the price of wages, every advance of which diminishes the resources of profit to the landowners; while every class, from the wealthy importer to the meanest pedlar, absorbs the wages of the labourer. A permanent system of feeding all *located* labourers, in place of large grants of land and the renting system, would in my opinion effectually obviate this state of things, and tend materially to augment harmony and good will, between the labourers and employer, unsettled by years of disputation on the imaginary existence of divided interests. The present rate of located labourers, placed at a discount of two bits per week without rent from those who *do labour*, would I think enable the proprietor to cultivate the necessary supply of food for his *labouring population*, so as to furnish each with daily rations, disencumbered of any further pecuniary charge, and be productive of increased advantage and economy to the labourers, would be a new stimulus to more steady industry, and would not be attended with the same embarrassments to the proprietor, either for expense or otherwise.

(Signed) JAMES S. BASCOM, Acting Police Magistrate.

No. 4.

Police Office, St. Joseph, Aug. 16th, 1841.

1. On the dissolution of the apprenticeship, freedom dawned on the labouring population of this colony; during the apprenticeship system, there was no semblance whatever of it. It was a period most unfavourable to the development of a well-defined social order; parties struggling under the greatest excitement, the one for the maintenance of power, the other for the eager possession of those natural rights which they saw within their grasp.

This excitement has now passed away, and comparative quiet and tranquillity has succeeded.

Our population may be seen settling themselves down in the most fertile parts of the island into a contented and happy peasantry. Emigration and its agents is apparently the only interruption to this harmony. In their cottages the labourers are becoming more cleanly, and are evincing a greater disposition to comfort than they have hitherto.

In their lands they are industrious, and these they turn to considerable profit. Marriage has been common, but as they are not sufficiently impressed with the sanctity of this state, it has not yet been a blessing to them.

Plurality of concubines is still an evil greatly to be complained of.

Larcenies it is also to be regretted are not diminishing, and on this point they carry out to the full extent the Spartan principle, that the detection is the only crime. Quarrels and fights amongst each other are likewise the frequent causes of much litigation.

The mortality in the island is not so great as formerly, and the population is rapidly increasing.

Proprietors and labourers are better understanding the duties of their relative positions. The one has become conciliatory, whilst the other is quite alive to the advantage which approved conduct must insure.

3. The conditions of tenancy, as they exist at present, are I conceive inconsistent in a great measure with the free agency of the labourer. His action circumscribed, the labourer receives a house from his employer, of which he is to be the tenant without rent so long as he gives his continuous service to the employer; but if he be absent without reasonable cause from his work, a rent is charged for that day, and in most cases an exorbitant rent, so as to compel his service. The labourer must submit to this charge, or abandon his home, and with it the associations of his earlier life. They have also a quarter of an acre of land, for which they in most cases pay a regular rent, but in some instances they have it without rent, and in the event of their being discharged from the estate, they are either allowed to hold the land, until their crop is fit to be reaped, or an appraised value of the same is paid them. There can be little doubt but that a system of renting them their cottages would be attended with most beneficial results, and would contribute much to the perfection of our free system. They are not much disposed to husband their money, much of it is spent in dissipation and unnecessary luxuries, consequently their advance to independence is but slow.

The parish of St. Joseph is one of the smallest in the island, but it possesses its parish church, and chapel of ease to the same, at both of which the attendance on Sunday is excellent. There are also two national schools for coloured children, under the superintendence of the rector, and they are thriving establishments, but parents have not quite sufficiently availed themselves of the advantages they offer. The number of small private schools has

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been the chief cause of this, on account of their greater convenience to persons living at a distance from the national schools; but the superiority of the latter will, in time, be their own recommendation. A friendly society has been established for the last three years, and is working well. The zeal of many of the clergy in promoting the best interests of this, and other institutions, deserves the highest commendation.

4. The island still continues under the same superior cultivation for which it has long been famed, and with favourable weather may be expected to return large crops. This year the drought has been most oppressive, and in parts of the island an inevitable failure will be the consequence.

The last crop was estimated at 17,000 hhds. of sugar, being very little over half the usual crop of the island, and the prospects for the next are not much more favourable. A want of labour is not yet felt, but with better crops this might be the case. Located labourers receive 10*d.* sterling per diem, whilst those not living on the estates receive 1*s.* 3*d.* sterling.

5. However extravagant it would be for a moment to suppose that the manufacture of Muscovado sugar is at this moment conducted on the most perfect system, either as regards the labour employed, or in the quality of the manufacture, yet some idea of this kind has apparently so engrossed the public mind, that no discovery of a nature calculated to be of material benefit, has been made within the last fifteen years. The planters, however, are awaking from their listlessness and apathy on this point, and are disposed to think that much may be done by machinery as an aid to manual labour. To this reaction we must look for beneficial results. Many spirited agriculturists have received their orders from the mother country, of various implements for farming and husbandry, but nothing laying claim to any great merit as a discovery has yet appeared.

The plough is becoming more generally used, and although there is not perhaps quite as much land under cultivation as a few years since, yet this is more than compensated for by the greater care bestowed on the cultivations generally.

6. With a population of upwards of 120,000, confined within such narrow limits, it might naturally be supposed that there would exist a very considerable internal traffic, but this is not the case. Our population is mainly dependent on supplies from America, in the shape of dried fish, corn, flour, biscuits, rice, &c. The cause chiefly contributing to this apparent anomaly, is the greater value the labourer derives from his lands by planting them in sugar canes, which are in most cases manufactured for them into sugar, free of cost on the estate on which they are located. With the money thus obtained, as well as that resulting from their daily labour, they purchase American produce. About two-thirds of the population live on imported articles. The estates plant little else than the sugar cane, which is most remunerating.

(Signed) J. D. MAYCOCK, Police Magistrate.

No. 5.

Police Office, St. Thomas, August 2nd, 1841.

1. At the commencement of my magisterial duties in this district, there was on the part of the labourers a great disinclination to continuous labour, but a great alteration has, I think, taken place for the better; and as soon as a free rent system be fully established and understood, I have reason to believe that they will settle down and show no disposition to a roving life. Neither is there that disposition to quarrelling and fighting which characterized their former conduct; for instance, at the close of the late sessions, it was observable that not a single case was presented to the Grand Inquest as coming from my district, which comprised a period of seven months. The rate of mortality is as follows, from the cessation of the apprenticeship, which was on the 1st August, 1838, to 1st August, 1841. Number of baptisms, 1,284; number of deaths, 571; emigrated from the district, to this day, 51.

2. The labourers are generally supplied with a good cottage, and a certain proportion of land to each of them to plant, which they generally keep in the highest state of cultivation. They would be, no doubt, most happy to become freeholders, had they the means to accomplish that desirable end, as may be seen, by the erection of a new village near our parish church, by the legates of Mount Wilton Plantation, under the will of their late master, Reynold Alleyne Ellicock, Esq.; from whom was bequeathed to his labourers so large a sum as 7,055*l.*, and which sum they have received since freedom. I do not think the raising up of this village has had any material effect on the labour market, as the labourers have not totally withdrawn their labour from the estates, having been only able to purchase small allotments of land, in no case exceeding two acres, and in many cases much less; and it may be observed that this is the only instance which has occurred in the island.

3. Under the head of new institutions, I am happy to observe that we have plenty of churches, chapels and schools, and the accommodation is in all cases fully equal to the attendance. The friendly society in my district is in a flourishing condition, the number of contributors to it being now over 700 persons.

4. The rate of wages has much increased of late, being now three bits per diem, besides rum, molasses, and at times provisions. Persons who are able to hire labour at the high rate can at present procure plenty, but how long this may continue to be the case is uncertain, as the labourers are fast quitting our shores for British Guiana and Trinidad. We have been visited with a very long and distressing drought, the seasons not commencing till the 1st of July, since which period we have had a plentiful supply of rain; and should it please the all-wise Disposer of events to continue to us his blessing, a fair crop may reasonably be anticipated next year, not only of sugar, but of provisions generally; for the industry of the Barbados planters and labourers stands unrivalled in the history of the world.

5. The plough is not in general use here; nor have we any agricultural implements by which manual labour can be saved, and which is much to be regretted.

6. We have an abundance of shops scattered throughout the district, for the sale of wet and dry goods; and the labourers themselves furnish the market with lambs, pigs, poultry, &c., as they rear them in great numbers; indeed, it is a matter of speculation, how they manage to support so many.

(Signed)

J. CAREW, Police Magistrate.

No. 6.

Police Office, Hole Town, July 12th, 1841.

1. The general character of the peasantry, considering the few advantages which they possessed, and the little opportunity afforded for moral improvement, prior to their release from servitude, is remarkably good. Their present condition, compared with that of the peasantry of England and Ireland is, I should say, equally as good as that of the former, and by far more happy than that of the latter; many changes are to be observed in their manners and habits—their taste for the luxuries and comforts of life has amazingly increased. In their dress and in their food they are inclined to be extravagant, and all that is available is invariably employed in the gratification of it. The rate of mortality, I think, is on the decrease. As regards the nature and frequency of offences, I can report no decided alteration that has lately taken place; although, on the aggregate, I consider that it has considerably diminished since the apprenticeship.

2. The good understanding between proprietor and labourer, so essentially necessary to the new system, has been gradually on the increase. The fact of their interests being closely connected, and in a measure dependent on each other, is now better understood, and a lasting benefit must result. The old system of giving a house to the labourer, free of rent, and occasionally for misconduct or other causes charging them rent, bids fair to be superseded by renting them houses at a fixed rate, and leaving them free to carry their labour to the best market; the most decided beneficial effect has resulted on every property where this has been carried into operation. Many of the peasantry have purchased small lots of land, but few or none have bought sufficient to make them (in a legal point of view) freeholders, the qualification being ten acres; it was at first supposed that this would have diminished the supply of labour for the staple produce of the island, but as yet I cannot say I have experienced any ill effects.

3. There have been several new institutions—chapels and schools, affording ample accommodation; and a friendly society daily increasing, and in a prosperous condition; there are no savings' banks.

4. The present state of cultivation is very good in this parish. The supply of labour is, I think, adequate to maintain it; the rate of wages varies from two to three bits per diem, or from 10d. to 1s. 3d. sterling. The produce of the last crop was very short, but the present prospect for the next is remarkably good—the weather down to the end of June was very unpropitious, but we have had a great change for the better this month.

5. There have been no improvements or discoveries in machinery that I have been able to hear of.

6. There is an extensive traffic carried on by the labourers, in carrying their provisions, poultry, stock, &c. to town, disposing of it for money, and purchasing largely of American produce; the large importations of which has caused great reductions in price.

(Signed)

FRANCIS THORNHILL, Police Magistrate.

No. 7.

Police Office, St. George, August 1841.

1. I have not observed any material changes in the manners, habits, or castes, nor in the rate of mortality of the peasantry in this parish, since the dissolution of the apprenticeship; but offences in their nature and frequency have greatly decreased.

2. The conditions of tenancy on estates, between the peasantry and the proprietors, remain steady: the peasantry being supplied by the proprietors with lodging, with or without a spot of cultivable land upon the estates on which they may engage to work, upon the terms of working four or five days weekly, besides the daily rate of wages payable in money, weekly or monthly, according to contract between the parties.

I do not know of the establishment of any labourer as a freeholder in this parish; but a few of them have become leaseholders for short terms of years, since the dissolution of the apprenticeship. A few new hamlets have risen up, detached from plantation lands. Each estate constitutes a populous village. The supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony has not been moved by the before mentioned changes.

3. There is a parish church and two chapelries, besides three schools and two friendly societies in this parish.

4. I have heard no complaints of want of labour since the last crop on the estates, notwithstanding the great increase of emigration of labourers from this to the neighbouring colonies. The rate of wages is from two to three bits a day. The produce of the last crop was small in this parish, and the promise of the next very precarious in parts of the parish, although the weather has been favourable since the beginning of July.

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5. I have not observed any new machine whereby labour is saved, nor any improved method of cultivation, nor any new manufacture in this parish.

6. The sort of goods most in demand in this parish are those required for food and raiment.

(Signed)

WM. GRIFFITH, Police Magistrate.

No. 8.

Police Office, St. Michael, Rural District, July 26th, 1841.

1. In adverting to the character of the peasantry of this country, many circumstances must be taken into consideration; we must remember that few years have elapsed since slavery has ceased to exist, and not three years since the apprenticeship system has terminated. I can scarcely think any one could be found, who would attempt to maintain that the former was calculated to raise either their moral, religious, or political character; or that the latter was in any way more conducive to those ends. Nevertheless, a gradual but sure and certain change, had been going on for the last many years, arising from an anxious desire on the part of many proprietors, to afford them instruction, and from the indefatigable zeal of our excellent bishop and his clergy, in seconding those views. I date from the abolition of the Sunday market, a great change for the better in their character; and I hesitate not to say, that taken as a body, the character of the Barbados peasantry, considering all the disadvantages they so long laboured under, will stand the test with most others in Her Majesty's dominions. As respects their condition, I know of none who have so many opportunities of living happily and contented as they have, residing in a healthy climate, with a good cottage, and a small spot of ground to cultivate, their children instructed, and their wages regularly paid them, a ready sale for their stock and provisions, and but a short distance to travel for any articles they may require; religious instruction afforded them at the many chapels, besides that given on many estates, and medical attendance easily obtained: these, with many others, are the blessings they enjoy. "Since the dissolution of the apprenticeship," I consider that their manners and habits have improved; they evince on every occasion a great love of dress, and a desire for the luxuries of the table; marriages have increased, and their children are baptized as soon after they are born as possible. With regard to the rate of mortality, putting aside the loss of life occasioned by the small-pox during the last year, I do not consider that any increase has taken place, and offences are certainly decreasing, the generality of complaints being chiefly for petty assaults and small debts.

2. The relation between the peasantry and the proprietors in this parish is certainly good. I scarcely ever receive a complaint from either party against the other. As respects the tenancy on estates, no very positive opinion can be given; on some scarcely a single labourer has quitted; on others, where the cottages have been made most comfortable, there is a continual change. This is attributable to many causes, often to the character of the old labourers on the estates, and often as must be admitted, to the system of management. This evil will, in time, I hope find its own cure, and I consider one of the most effectual means will be for the proprietors to rent the labourer his cottage, allowing him to choose his own place of work. I have always endeavoured to inculcate this opinion on the proprietors, and in many instances in this parish, the plan has been tried with success. Little progress has been made by the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders, not from any disinclination on their parts to become so, but circumstanced as our island is, there is little probability of any very great number being able in the rural districts to obtain freeholds. The reason is obvious; there is not in the whole island a spot of waste land fit for cultivation, and as the land is principally divided into estates, the proprietors are not likely to sell off small lots for that purpose; and there being no public lands available, it is plain that freeholds to any extent cannot be established in the country; in the town however they are greatly increasing. In this parish new villages are daily rising up, particularly in the suburbs of the town, and when the new "Franchise Bill" receives the Queen's assent, many new freeholds will be formed. I do not consider that in this parish any diminution of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the island has taken place in consequence of these changes, as the parties come almost exclusively from the distant parishes.

3. In the rural district of this parish there are four lay chapels with schools attached, besides several small schools. No savings' banks have been established, but friendly societies are increasing rapidly; to each of the chapels one is attached, and also can boast of a considerable number of subscribers. These institutions are much better calculated to suit the state of society amongst our peasantry than the other would be; they not only teach them frugal habits, but they keep a strict watch on their moral and religious character, and I find in very few instances that members of those societies are even complained against at the magistrates' office. Our late beloved and lamented Governor, Sir Evan J. M. Macgregor, took in those societies (as in every other institution in this island) a great interest.

4. The state of cultivation is excellent, and the prospect at this time good; the supply of labour in this parish abundant; the rate of wages generally from two bits to a quarter dollar, or from 10d. to 1s. sterling, per diem; it is often however 1s. 3d., and sometimes more. The last crop averaged between 17 and 18 thousand hogsheads; the promise of the next crop at this time is fair, and we have had a very seasonable month, but it is impossible at this season of the

not been for the great supply of food from the "United States" great want would have been experienced by all classes of the community, and particularly by the labourers.

5. There are few or no improvements, or discoveries, either in cultivation or machinery; the plough is coming now into use, and appears to answer well in some situations; the cultivation of the cane however admits of very little machinery being used.

6. The state of internal traffic is very good, and has been particularly so during the long drought that has prevailed; the articles most in demand are corn, meal, rice, flour, salt fish, and such like—this traffic is carried on principally by small shopkeepers who are scattered about in every direction throughout the country.

(Signed)

J. W. SPENCER, Police Magistrate.

No. 9.

Police Office, St. John, August 12, 1841.

1. The habits and condition of the peasantry have been undergoing gradual changes and alterations, dependent on the various causes which have affected that class since the dissolution of apprenticeship. Entire emancipation found them strongly attached to the island, and the plantations on which they were bound and brought up, simple in their tastes, having hitherto been wholly provided with food and clothing at the discretion of their masters, and limited to the lowest degree, in their ideas of speculation. The unrestrained exercise which they now possess of their inclination and judgment in all matters respecting their interests—the full power of opposing, to the utmost extent, all unreasonable employers and landlords—the ready means of eluding unjust monopolies at home, by reason of the immense facilities to emigration, afforded them by the neighbouring colonies—aided by the almost total exemption from the burthen of maintaining their sick and aged relatives and children, which is usually so oppressive to the lower class in countries where the staple commodity does not bear such a disproportioned value to the necessities of life—have all conduced to place the labourers in a state of extraordinary freedom from controul, and have rendered them unsettled, improvident, and extravagant in their dress and habits of living. They are credulous in the extreme; when their employers are not a party concerned, they view that class with the greatest suspicion.

According to the imperfect estimate that can be made in the absence of the correct census of the population, there appears to have been a slight decrease in the rate of mortality, the last three years shewing an average of nearly three per cent., while during apprenticeship, and the last few years of slavery, it was estimated at three and half per cent.

The offences which come before the police magistrate, are chiefly confined to matters of dispute between the labourers themselves, of the nature of petty assaults and debts; there has been a great increase of such cases.

2. The conditions of tenancy on the estates appear to be gradually improving. The landlord has been taught the impolicy, as well as impossibility, of attempting to retain their labourers under the restrictions which were in the first instance adopted, and which indeed still exist to a very great extent. The more effective labourers have, however, for the most part detached themselves from individual estates, and formed themselves into independent jobbing gangs; making thereby a market for labour depending alone on the seasons, and other local circumstances; while the less effective labourers remaining on estates, under the implied contract to work five days per week, at a fixed rate of wages, and in default subject to exorbitant rent charges, are generally diminishing in their numbers. This class afford lodging to the former. But while this state of things generally prevails, there are many instances where estates are conducted on a more liberal scale, and the advantages to the attached labourer, in land rent free, &c., are so great, as to render the aforementioned restriction but little oppressive. There is also growing out of these several causes a system of land rent, independent of the requisition of labour; and on this footing alone, can employers expect a settled and continuous labour system.

There are many individual circumstances of persons of that class becoming freeholders, but from the high price of land hitherto, and their improvident habits, they have been less frequent than may have been expected.

The growth of new hamlets or villages has been very slight, from the causes just stated as affecting the attainment of freeholds; but when estates rent the labourers their cottages and land free of the restrictions on account of labour, they may be considered to constitute new villages; and I should imagine, that under certain limitations as to the quantity of land allotted them, the free village system will not at all decrease the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple commodity.

3. Chapel schools have been established under the direction of the clergy, and many petty schools have risen up for the instruction of the children of labourers in the first rudiments of learning. Friendly societies exist, and are of great benefit to the labouring population.

4. The supply of labour has been always equal to the demand, but frequently only to be obtained by an increase in the ordinary rates of wages, owing to the great competition among planters. The rate of wages for what is considered one day's labour, may be stated to be equal to 1s. 3d. sterling, when the advantages of house and land are not thrown in; but labourers frequently earn 2s. 1d. per day.

The produce exported of the last crop reached 17,000 hogsheads; and from the present prospect, the next crop will not exceed that, in consequence of the unprecedented dry weather which has prevailed during the last six months. However, from the backward growth of the plants, the nature of the ensuing season will materially influence the product.

5. Machinery has been lately introduced by Mr. Heath, an enlightened proprietor of the

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island, for the removal of the expressed canes from the mills; and machinery has been adopted in the boiling houses for making one furnace effect what required three under the old system, besides other minor improvements in the cane mills, &c.

Ploughs are also coming more into use. The system of agriculture is likewise undergoing great improvements, having for its primary object the saving of labour. The improvement consists chiefly in curtailing the number of acres of land planted, by high manuring and ratooning, but on account of the peculiar constitution of the colony, its numerous proprietors being men of small capital and carrying on cultivation on a limited scale, machinery cannot at present supersede manual labour in a very great degree. Hence the prosperity of this colony must depend on a large population.

6. Wages being almost entirely paid in money, the internal traffic of the island has increased surprisingly. The goods most in demand are American provisions, such as corn, meal, rice, flour, biscuits, and salt meats; English potatoes, hams, and malt. Cotton goods are chiefly used by the peasantry for their every day wear, while the articles of the finest manufacture in the English market, as silks and fine woollens, they do not consider too expensive for their apparel on occasions of festivity and display.

(Signed)

H. PILGRIM, Police Magistrate.

No. 10.

Police Office, St. Philip, August 1841.

1. The general character and condition of our peasantry, are much improved since the dissolution of the apprenticeship; inasmuch as they are more regular in their daily avocations and manners, and much more so in their general attitudes. The offences committed by them are much in the same proportion as heretofore, and chiefly confined to assaults and batteries and petty thefts.

2. The relations between the peasantry are not yet reciprocal, but improving daily; this still exists, *without doubt*, from the system pursued by the planters, in exacting a certain charge by way of rent for each absent day, from labour, which naturally savours of compulsion and coercive means by way of exacting continuous labour; and in my opinion as long as such is continued, there will be invariably a disinclination on the part of the peasantry to settle themselves down, and feel contented with their condition. From these causes, they are now quitting the estates, and renting lands from the minor places at an extravagant rate; which they can never pay for, and are thus driven to seek employment in other islands by emigration. I know of no freeholders among them. There have been a few hamlets erected lately. I may say that every estate has its own village, and very populous. The supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce is quite sufficient.

3. There are five places of worship in this parish, namely, "one church," "four chapelries," and several "schools." No "savings' banks," and but one "benefit society."

4. The state of cultivation in this parish is beautiful, but I am sorry to add, that the prospects of the ensuing crop are bad, owing entirely to the very great drought experienced for the last ten months; as I have already stated, the supply of labour is abundant, and the rate of wages varying from 20 to 30 cents per day. The produce of the last crop was very small compared with the previous years, and the weather still continues precarious.

5. There have been no inventions of machinery, that I am aware of. I have, however, to remark, that the plough is now becoming more generally used, and that the opinion which formerly existed among a great proportion of the planters, "of its inefficiency in turning up the soil, and of its being injurious," is now totally eradicated.

6. The internal traffic of the labourers is chiefly in huckstering, and the goods most in demand relate to the luxuries of life in food and clothing, which have increased to a great degree since their freedom.

(Signed)

P. L. APPLEWHAITE, Police Magistrate.

No. 11.

Police Office, Christ Church, August 1841.

1. The peasantry of this parish conduct themselves generally in a satisfactory manner. They regard the authorities and laws with a degree of respect alike creditable to themselves, and conducive to the peace and happiness of the parish.

They have become more intelligent, and have greatly improved in their manners and habits since the dissolution of the apprenticeship; I do not think mortality has increased amongst them. The offences brought under my notice are chiefly petty thefts and breaches of the peace, but these are becoming less frequent.

2. In general there is a good understanding between the peasantry and the proprietors; the former are furnished with comfortable cottages at the estates on which they are located, and a spot of land (about a quarter of an acre) rent free, as a retainer, when required, for the regular and continuous labour on the estates, so that every estate has its own village; but the peasantry evince an anxious and laudable desire to become independent in their domestic establishment, and all who can afford to erect their own cottages prefer doing so on lands which they rent for that purpose, and in many instances they have become owners of small spots of land purchased

form an opinion on passing events, I think it would be to the interests of the planters, as tending to harmonize the feelings, and allay the jealousies of the peasantry, would they simultaneously abandon the rent free retainer system, charge regular rent for the cottages, and permit the tenants to dispose of their labour as they may think (proper) best; instead of charging them rent (according to the present cottage plan) for the days only they absent themselves, and work elsewhere without leave; this plan imposes on tenants a degree of restraint reminding them of the bye-gone days of slavery, which they are naturally very anxious to get rid of, and I am confident it would be to the interest and mutual advantage of both parties were it absolutely and for ever abolished.

3. In this parish there are a church, four chapels, and seven public schools in full operation; and also several benefit or friendly societies.

4. There is no want of labour; the rate of wages, out of crop, to labourers living rent free is twenty cents per day for those of the first class, and the other classes in proportion; in the crop season, cane cutters are paid twenty-five cents per day, and manufacturers thirty cents. From the severe drought of the last and present year, the crop just reaped was very small, but the actual quantity cannot be ascertained until the month of February next, when the proprietors of estates, as required by law, return to the churchwarden the quantity produced, with the view to taxation in aid of repairing public roads. The prospects of the next crop are rather discouraging, owing to the long continuation of drought.

5. I am not aware of any new machine being in use in this parish by which labour is saved, but the method of cultivation has much improved on many estates. No new manufacture in use.

6. The huckstering business is carried on to a great extent in dry goods and provisions, being the articles most in demand.

(Signed) JOSEPH P. EVELYN, Police Magistrate.

No. 12.

Police Office, Bridge Town, July 21st, 1841.

1. The peasantry of this district have improved in habits of civilization; they are more inclined than formerly to work for fair wages; they appear generally speaking contented and comfortable; they live more luxuriously, but it is a crying evil that they will not bring up their children to any rational pursuit; and we are inclined to think that the mortality among the children is greater than when they were in a state of slavery or apprenticeship. Criminal offences are of rarer occurrence, and we consider that crime has diminished.

2. There seems at present a revival of confidence between the proprietors of the soil and the peasantry; the system of tenancy is still unsettled, but the planters are wisely considering this important measure, and we trust ere long the labourers will be settled in their domicile under a mild system of rent; at present they may be ejected under certain circumstances in a summary manner, but this can only be done under the sanction and direction of the magistrate.

This country, unlike the sister colonies, has no waste lands; so great is the population, that every inch of arable land is planted with industry and care, so that there is scarce an opportunity for small freeholds to be obtained, or new villages or hamlets to be established in the interior. The island is so small that those persons who wish to exchange agricultural pursuits for trade, resort to Bridge Town (the capital), which is getting more extended every day, and new villages in the suburbs are rapidly rising.

3. There is in this town the cathedral and two large chapels for protestant worship, and in the rural part of the district four chapels, which are usually well attended; we should there is full accommodation therein for all religiously disposed persons; there are four Mico charity schools for infants; one large school, besides many minor ones, for the coloured population; one charity school, called the free school, for the admission of all classes; one male, and one female central school for the education of the poorer classes of whites; besides two dispensaries, where food is issued gratis and indiscriminately to the poor of all classes; and several benefit societies under the immediate direction of the clergy: these latter are chiefly for the benefit of the labourers and coloured class, who subscribe each person a small sum, either weekly, monthly, or annually, which ensures them in sickness, care, food and attention. There are no savings' banks at present established.

4. We regret to state that in general the prospects of cultivation are bad, owing entirely to a very long and severe drought, under which the island has suffered the last two years, but in this parish the prospects are more cheering, and having in all this month (July) been blessed with fine rains, we think if they continue that a good crop may still be expected in 1842. There is a good supply of labour; the wages vary from 1s. 3d. currency, to 3s. 1½d., which latter sum is frequently obtained in crop time. The produce of the crop (that is of the year 1840) was about 14,000 hogsheads; the present year will exceed 17,000. The weather is now favourable, and we should say the seasons may fairly be considered to have set in.

5. No new improvements or discoveries have been made; the plough is sometimes used in aid of manual labour.

6. Whenever a spot of land can be obtained near any populous road, small hucksters' shops invariably shew themselves; where is vended American provisions, rum, brandy, gin, and inferior wine; articles for clothing, such as calicoes, muslins, shoes, hats, and stockings. There is a great inclination on the part of the peasantry to obtain luxuries in eating and drinking, and fine clothes.

(True Copies)
Felix Bedingfeld, Private Secretary.

(Signed) C. H. MOORE,
R. HENDY, } P. M.
C. GILL,

BARBADOS.

Sir,

Assistant Court of Appeal, 23rd September, 1841.

WE had the honour, on the 15th instant, to receive your letter of that date, forwarding to us, by the Lieutenant-Governor's desire, answers from the several police magistrates, to certain questions prepared and submitted to those functionaries, in obedience to orders received from the the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and conveying to us His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor's request to forward our report thereon at our earliest convenience.

Having so fully dilated in our several previous reports upon the labouring class of this island, respectively dated the 6th and 20th April, the 30th September, and 15th November, 1839, and the 1st August, 1840, we do not discover, after a careful perusal and consideration of the documents now before us, any new subject of agricultural interest upon which we have not previously fully expressed our sentiments, and which remain unchanged.

An increase of several places of public worship have been completed since our last report, and which are detailed in the answers of the several police magistrates on this head. So far as our knowledge and information goes, no machinery has been introduced, with the exception of the plough, which has lately been in operation in several parishes of this island to a considerable extent.

It will be seen, on reference to the police magistrates' replies, that the principal traffic carried on by the lately emancipated peasantry, is in American produce, dry goods, and sale of island provision; and to our knowledge, small hucksters' shops for the vending of these articles are greatly on the increase in all parts of the island.

There is, however, one point adverted to in our communication, dated 30th September, 1839, on which, for reasons therein stated, we ventured to record our opinion as follows:—"Thirteen months have now elapsed since the enjoyment of unrestricted freedom in this colony, and as the experience of this period of time has exhibited a practical failure in the working of the system of gratuitous rents for house and land, as a means of confirming the labourer in one locality, or of ensuring his permanent services on the estate on which he is domiciled, we are strongly of opinion that if the plan of renting upon a liberal scale were to become prevalent, the most successful results might confidently be anticipated from the experiment. Sudden ejectment could not, under the system, be enforced; and the present fruitful source of complaint between employer and labourer, springing from the jealousy with which the former regards the transfer of the services of the latter to a neighbouring plantation, would gradually disappear under the salutary operation of a contract law, and be succeeded by one uniform system of continuous labour upon the respective properties of this island."

As we now perceive, on reference to the police magistrates' reports, that several of those gentlemen have therein strongly advocated the adoption of the system we then, so long ago recommended, and as they further bear testimony to the fact, that on estates where the plan has been pursued it has been attended with success, and the most beneficial results, we feel the more strongly impressed with the gratifying assurance, that the views we then entertained on this point were correct; and we trust that at no very distant period, the system will become general.

Although a good understanding is stated by some of the police magistrates to exist between the employers and the peasantry, and the relations between them improving, and which, as far as our personal observation and experience enable us to form an opinion, we most willingly bear witness to, we nevertheless beg permission to avail ourselves of the opportunity now afforded us, of offering one or two remarks or observations on the present "rent system," and which we consider to be the principal cause why a much greater and more general confidence and good feeling does not exist in this colony between the employer and employed.

The plan that appears to be the most general in practice, to ensure continuous and compulsory labour, is for the planter to allow the located labourer two bits per day for each day he works on the estate, and a negro hut or cottage, with sometimes a proportion of land, is also granted, with an understanding that if the labourer absents himself without leave, or works elsewhere, two bits per day will be stopped from his wages. Now, as transient hired labourers on estates receive a higher rate of wages, besides other allowances, than the located labourer, in consideration that the former is not accommodated with a house or land, it seems to us, on a fair and just view of the question, that the hut and land, although said to be given to the located labourer "*rent free*," is actually a reward or part payment to him, as incident to his services on the estate, in consideration of his receiving a less remuneration in money than is paid to the transient hired labourer.

During the present year several cases have been brought before us in the Assistant Court of Appeal, where sums have been demanded by the employers for house rent, during the labourer's absence from the estate; and three instances have recently occurred, when it came out in evidence that a parent and three or four junior members of a family occupied one cottage, and the employers declared in open court that they would charge and demand rent of two bits per day from each of the occupants, for every day's absence, and wished to deduct the sums claimed by them from the weekly wages of the children when absent, although they admitted the house was allotted to the parent. It needs no particular observation of ours, to prove how very objectionable it is to charge the junior members of a family for rent, nor the dissatisfaction it must give.

It is scarcely necessary for us to state, that such a preposterous and unjust claim was dis-

For Letter 30th
September, 1839,
vide Paper relative
to the West Indies,
1840, Part 2, Bar-
bados, page 51.

labour on an estate, must create difference and ill-will between the parties, and want of confidence and injury, both to employer and labourer, is the natural result.

We have thus ventured to record our candid and impartial opinion on this subject; and we feel confident that the only sure mode that could be adopted for the future benefit of all parties, would be to rent the peasantry the cottages for stated periods (their right of occupancy to be of course properly secured), and allow them to dispose of their labour in such manner as they may find most advantageous for themselves; and we feel the more strongly impressed with the advantages that would be derived in consequence, from the testimony borne by the police magistrates, that in every case where it has been tried, the most favourable results have followed.

This arrangement, if generally adopted, we should hail with delight, as one of the most important objects connected with the interests of the colony, for it would ensure to the labourer :—

1. The rights and privileges of a tenant, which at present they do not possess.
2. Emigration to other colonies (which is now carried on to a great extent) would, it is supposed, cease.
3. Confidence, contentment, and a friendly feeling would take the place of suspicion, discontent, and endless controversy; and,
4. Proprietors of estates, acting kindly and liberally, and paying the labourer his wages regularly, would never want labour to cultivate his property, and the recently emancipated class of Barbados, would then enjoy and fully and justly appreciate the blessings of freedom; and in our humble opinion, become one of the happiest race of peasantry in any portion of Her Majesty's dominions.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

A. CUPPAGE, I.A. C.A.

I. J. TINLING, I.A. C.A.

E. H. EDMONSTONE, I.A. C.A.

(Signed)

A. C.

I. J. T.

E. H. E.

P. S.—We beg to return herewith, the documents received with your letter of the 15th inst.

(True Copy)

Felix Bedingfeld, Private Secretary.

(No. 3.)

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to the Right Hon.
Sir CHARLES GREY.

Sir,

Downing-street, February 11, 1842.

No. 10.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of Major-Gen. Darling's Despatch, Barbados, of the 16th September, No. 15, transmitting the Answers of the Stipendiary Magistrates for that Island to certain Questions directed to be referred to them by Lord John Russell in his Despatch of April 1841.

I am glad to observe that these Reports are, on the whole, of a satisfactory nature, showing a progressive improvement in the condition of the labourer, and affording evidence of a desire on his part to attain to that position to which it was the primary object of the measure of Emancipation to elevate him.

I perceive, however, with regret, that though the relations between master and servant were, on the whole, improving, yet the system of combining rent and wages was very generally maintained, and was necessarily the cause of much ill-will and many disputes between them.

I am aware that this is a question which has occupied much attention, and one upon which I am afraid it is impossible for the Government effectually to interfere: at the same time these reports have tended to strengthen my opinion that by keeping the questions of rent and wages distinct, the relative position of master and servant would be most materially improved.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir Charles Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

STANLEY.

(1492.)

No. 11.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from the Lord Bishop of BARBADOS to
Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

King's Road, July 6, 1841.

No. 11.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for the information of your Lordship, an Ecclesiastical Return from the Archdeaconry of Barbados, in two sheets.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

W. H. BARBADOS.

PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE

DIOCESE OF BARBADOS AND
BISHOP.—THE RIGHT REV. WILLIAM
ARCHDEACONRY OF BARBADOS.

ARCHDEACON.—VEN. THOMAS PARRY, M.A., appointed 1837.

1841. ISLAND of BARBADOS. PARISH.	Extent in Square Miles.	Popula- tion.	CLERGY.	CHURCH ROOM.
				Churches and Chapels.
St. Michael * Absent. † And Chaplain to H. M. Coun- cil. ‡ Of these 30 attend at the Sun- day School also, and are there- fore omitted in the aggregate. * * Another District is also con- templated in the northern part of Bridge-Town, but means have not yet been found for the erection of the Chapel.	15	30,000	W. Garnet,* Rector. T. Clarke, B.A., Curate.† W. M. Harte, Assistant Curate and Minister of the District. J. A. Clinckett, Assistant Curate. C. C. Cummins, Assistant Curate and Minister. T. Rowe, Assistant Curate and Minister, and Chap- lain to the Gaol. J. H. Nurse, B.A., Assistant Curate and Minister. T. F. Barrow, B.A., As- sistant Curate and Minis- ter. G. D. Gittens, Master of Harrison's Free School.	Cathedral and Parish Church, 134 by 60 feet.— Rebuilt 1789. St. Mary's Chapel, 84 by 54 feet. Built 1827. Cost £8,666 sterling. St. Paul's Chapel, 75 by 59½ feet. Built and de- stroyed 1831. Rebuilt 1832. Cost £2,900 sterling. St. Matthew's Chapel, 68 by 30 feet. Built 1829. Destroyed 1831. Rebuilt 1832. Cost £566 sterling. St. Giles's Chapel School, 50 by 25 feet. Built 1836. Cost £333 sterling. St. Stephen's Chapel, 70 by 30 feet. Built 1836. Cost £862 sterling St. Barnabas Chapel School, 60 by 26 feet. Built 1838. Gallery 1840. Cost £800 sterling.
Christ Church . . . . || Student of Codrington College.	22½	14,000	C. C. Gill, Rector. A. Reece, S. C. C.,|| Assist- ant Curate and Minister of the District. J. Packer, Assistant Curate and Minister. This District is united with St Barnabas, see above.	Parish Church, 85 by 43 feet, and Chancel 16 by 14 feet. Rebuilt 1837. Cost £4,000 sterling. School House Below Rock licensed for Divine Service. St. Bartholomew's Chapel, 65 by 30 feet, with School wings, 24 by 20 feet each. Built and destroyed 1831. Rebuilt 1832. Wings added 1838. Cost £600 sterling. St. Matthias' Chapel in progress. School House licensed for Divine Service. St. Lawrence Chapel School, 40 by 21 feet. Built 1837. Cost £366 sterling. St. David's Chapel School, 60 by 30 feet. Built 1840. Cost £650 sterling.
St Philip	23	14,000	R. F. King, Rector. J. J. Allison, B.A., Assis- tant Curate and Minister. (Removed to Demerara in April, and succeeded by C. A. J Sims.) United with St. Mark's, see below.	Parish Church, 86 by 46 feet, and Chancel. Rebuilt 1836. Cost £4,000 sterling. Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 60 by 26 feet. Built 1829. Destroyed 1831. Rebuilt 1832. Wings added 1838 (25 by 23 feet). Cost £725 sterling. St. Martin's Chapel School, 45 by 20 feet. Built 1837. Cost £350 sterling. St. Catherine's Chapel School just completed, (May 10th.) Cost £250 sterling.
St. John (Codrington College is situated in this parish.)	13½	9,000	J. H. Gittens, B.A., Rector. J. H. Gittens, S. C. C., As- sistant Curate and Minis- ter. T. Watts, Chaplain on the Trust Estates of Society	Parish Church 80 by 50 feet. Rebuilt 1836. Cost £4,000 sterling. St. Mark's Chapel 60 by 30 feet. Built 1823. Destroyed 1831. Rebuilt 1832. Cost £570 sterling. Chapel on Estate 60 by 30 feet, and 2 wings, each 26 by 26 feet. Built 1822. Destroyed

LEEWARD ISLANDS, CONSTITUTED 1824.

HART COLERIDGE, D.D., CONSECRATED 1824.

RURAL DEANERY OF BARBADOS.

RURAL DEAN.—REV. R. F. KING (*Rector of St. Philip's*), appointed 1840.

		Attendance at		Friendly Societies.		Schools, in connexion with the Church, for the Religious Instruction of the Poor.											
No. of Sittings.	Public worship.	Com- munion.	No. of Societies.	Nos. in each.	National.		Infant.		Evening.		Estate.		Sunday.		Aggregate		
					No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	
1,700	1,600	260	1	75	2	162	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	117	3	279
1,420	1,200	250	2	406	2	292	1	112	Same as Sunday.				1	101	4	505	
1,200	1,200	330	2	1,051	2	119	1	61	Same as Sunday.				2	749	5	929	
580	600	40	2	112	1	140	..	..	1	60½	..	..	1	120	3	290
275	200	Not adminis- tered.	2	79	1	135	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	135
530	490		2	112	2	132	..	..	Same as Sunday.				1	60	3	192
500	450	30	2	132	1	142	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	36	2	178
1,300	1,000	150	2	117	2	143	..	..	..	..	5	185	1	225	9	643
180	220	Not adminis- tered.	..	..	1	90	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
540	500		75	2	50	2	60	1	21	3	81
270	200	Not adminis- tered.	2	57	2	74	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	70	3	144
175	200		40	United with St. Matthias.		1	63	1	25	2	88
400	380	30	United with St. Barnabas.		1	154	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	36	2	190
1,200	900	165	2	68	1	103	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	20	2	123
500	420	70	2	38	1	80	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	80
300	300	Not adminis- tered.	United with the last.		1	87	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	2	91
1,200	1,000		164	2	193	3	214	1	107	4	321
360	340	83	Included in the last or next.		1	86	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	73	2	159
800	900	100	2	160	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	93	1	165	2	258
46	40	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

DIOCESE OF BARBADOS AND
BISHOP.—THE RIGHT REV. WILLIAM

ARCHDEACONRY OF BARBADOS.

ARCHDEACON.—VEN. THOMAS PARRY, M.A., appointed 1837.

1841. ISLAND OF BARBADOS. PARISH.	Extent in Square Miles.	Popula- tion.	CLERGY.	CHURCH ROOM.
				Churches and Chapels.
St. Joseph	9½	7,000	H. Parkinson, Rector.	Parish Church 70 by 41 feet. Rebuilt 1839. Cost £1,750 sterling. Chapel School 50 by 24 feet. Built 1837. Cost £200 sterling.
St. Andrew	13½	5,000	J. Hutson, Rector. C. A. Newsam, S. C. C., Assistant Curate.	Parish Church 56 by 28 feet St. Simon's Chapel School 54 by 22 feet. Built 1840. Cost £375 sterling. St. Saviour's Chapel School, in contemplation. Temporary place of worship.
St. Lucy	13½	8,000	J. Brathwaite, M. A., Rec- tor. H. B. Skeete, S. C. C., As- sistant Curate and Minis- ter.	Parish Church 96 by 46½ feet. Rebuilt 1837. Cost £3,000 sterling. St. Swithin's Chapel School in progress . . . St. Clement's Chapel. Date 1838. Cost £500 sterling.
St. Peter	14	11,000	W. D. Sealy, B.A., Rector. (Resigned April 30th, and succeeded by W. M. Payne.)	Parish Church 81 by 42 feet, and Chancel. Re- built 1837. Cost £3,080 sterling. All Saints Chapel, rebuilding
St. James Another District to include Spring Head is contemplated, also one in south-east part of the parish.	12	6,000	G. F. Maynard, Rector.	Parish Church 54 by 40 feet, and Chancel . . St. Alban's Chapel-School 70 by 21 feet. Built 1840. Cost £330 sterling.
St. Thomas Another District contemplated near Welsh's, where there is already a School-House.	13	7,500	W. H. Bovell, B.A., Rector, assisted in part by the Assistant Curate of St. Andrew's.	Parish Church 83 by 45 feet. Rebuilt 1837. Cost £2,666 sterling. Holy Innocents' Chapel 65 by 35 feet. Built 1839. Cost 1,333 £sterling.
St. George.	16½	9,000	W. L. Pinder, M.A., Rector. J. K. Went, B.A., Assist- ant Curate and Minister. E. Lovell,* B.A., Assistant Curate and Minister.	Parish Church 80 by 40 feet St. Luke's Chapel 67 by 27 feet, with school wing 24 by 24. Built 1830. Rebuilt 1832. Cost £500 sterling. St. Jude's Chapel 61 by 26 feet. Built 1834. Cost £780 sterling.
*Absent.				
Total	166½	120,500	Thirty-one. a	Thirty-five in actual use. b

a Besides the Bishop and the Archdeacon, who also reside in Barbados, and the Rev. R. J. Rock, who keeps a private school near Speights' Town.
b Besides Buildings in progress.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, CONSTITUTED 1824.

HART COLERIDGE, D.D., CONSECRATED 1824.

RURAL DEANERY OF BARBADOS.

RURAL DEAN.—REV. R. F. KING (*Rector of St. Philip's*), appointed 1840.

		Attendance at		Friendly Societies.		Schools, in connexion with the Church, for the Religious Instruction of the Poor.											
No. of Sittings.	Public worship.	Com- munion.	No. of Societies.	Nos. in each.	National.		Infant.		Evening.		Estate.		Sunday.		Aggregate.		
					No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	
800	750	125	2	210	1	45	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	30	2	75
200	120	Not adminis- tered.	Included in the last.		1	62	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	24	2	86
700	800	56	2	117	1	51	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	51
290	320	14	Included in the last.		1	108	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	17	2	125
500	500	Not adminis- tered.	Same.		1	118	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	118
1,200	800	120	1	120	1	48	..	..	..	..	2	67	..	..	3	115
..	..	..	1	119	1	149	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	71	2	220
300	260	45	1	36	1	94	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	60	2	154
1,000	900	96	1	300	4	232	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	232
..	..	..	..	..	2	209	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	209
550	360	65	2	177	1	73	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	73
176	150	Not adminis- tered.	Included in the last.		1	90	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	90
810	600	90	2	628	1	44	..	..	..	..	1	53	..	..	2	97
500	450	25	Included in the last.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
900	830	120	3	334	3	180	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	180
700	475	70	1	29	1	103	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	103
400	400	75	..	..	1	112	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	112
22,502	20,055	2,787	43	4,751	49	3,994	2	173	1	60	9	398	22	2,131	83	6,726	

^c Besides Catechumens under oral instruction, of whom the number is 1765.

DIOCESE OF BARBADOS AND
ARCHDEACONRY
TRINIDAD, TOBAGO, and ST. LUCIA, with the

1841. ISLAND AND PARISH, OR DISTRICT.	Extent in Square Miles.	Population.	CLERGY.	CHURCH ROOM.	
				Churches and Chapels.	
Island and Rural Deanery of Trinidad. — District.	2,400	..		RURAL DEAN.—	
Port of Spain, including also Diego Martin, Co- corite, and Chaguanas.	..	..	George Cummins, M. A., Minister. D. Evans (Garrison Chap- lain), Acting Assistant Curate.	Trinity Church, 120 by 60 feet. Built 1828. Cost £40,000 sterling. School-room at Diego Martin, used as a tem- porary place of worship. Room lent at the Ordnance Department for similar purposes. St. Thomas's Church, Chaguanas, 50 by 25 feet. Built 1840. Cost £800 sterling.	
Carapichaima, including also Couva and Savo- netta.	..	..	(Vacant in January, 1841.) Thomas Gilbert, Minister, (April, 1841.)	St. Andrew's Church, Couva, 70 by 35 feet. Built 1841. Cost £2,000 sterling.	
San Fernando, including also Pont à Pierre, &c.	..	..	J. G. Mühlauer, Minister from C. M. S.	St. Paul's Church, 64 by 34 feet. Built 1841. Cost £2,300 sterling. School-room, used as a temporary place of worship School-room at Pont à Pierre, used as a tem- porary place of worship. St. Barnabas Chapel-school at Belmont . . . School-room, used a temporary place of worship, at Jordan-hill. Same at Ne-plus-ultra. Same at Mount Steward	
* Deduction to be made in the aggregate of 66 for double entry.					
Savanna Grande, including also Dunmore-hill, &c.	..	..	A. E. Eckel, Minister from C. M. S.	School-room at Savanna Grande, used as above. Same at Dunmore-hill Same at Indian-walk Same at Williamsville School at Kurrubpou	
Tacarigua, including also St. Joseph's, &c.	..	..	John Hans Hamilton, Mi- nister.	School-room at Tacarigua, used as above . . Old Barrack at St. Joseph's, same Police Station at Arima	
Five Districts	2,400	50,000(?)	Six Clergy	Eighteen places of worship	
Island of Tobago The whole island is eccle- siastically, as yet, only one cure, though for civil purposes divided into seven parishes.	100	14,000	G. P. Culpepper, Rector . James Garnet, A.B., As- sistant Curate.	St. Andrew's Church, (in the town of Scarbro') 80 by 40 feet. Built 1816. Cost £6,600 sterling St. David's Chapel at Plymouth, 44 by 34 feet. Built 1816. Cost £330 sterling. Chapel-school at Les Coteaux, 50 by 25 feet. Built 1837. Cost £880 sterling. All Saints Chapel-school, in the parish of St. Patrick, 63 by 31 feet. Nearly completed. Temporary place of worship at Goldsbro', in parish of St. Mary.	
One Parish	100	14,000	Two	Four places of worship in use	
Island of St. Lucia . . .	180	20,000	S. A. Farr, Officiating Mi- nister and Gar. Chap.	A Church in Castres, not yet consecrated, but title-deeds now executed are given over.	

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.
OF BARBADOS.
RURAL DEANERIES of ST. VINCENT'S and GRENADA.

Attendance at			Friendly Societies		Schools, in connexion with the Church, for the Religious Instruction of the Poor.											
No. of Sittings.	Public worship.	Com- munion.	No. of Societies	Nos. in each.	National.		Infant.		Evening.		Estate.		Sunday.		Aggregate.	
					No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.
REV. GEORGE CUMMINS, M. A.																
1,300	1,000	200	1	120	2	206	2	156	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	476
50	40	..	..	..	1	49	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
50	40	..	..	..	1	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
180	150	5	1	80	1	38	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
350	300	8	1	250	3	118	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	118
300	Not yet used.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	350
150	120	12	1	100	2	81	1	58	..	..	..	..	..	..
60	No return.	..	..	..	1	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
200	100	25	..	..	1	61	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	57*		
100	70	..	..	..	1	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
150	No return.	..	..	..	1	56	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	32*		
50	..	..	..	..	1	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
150	100	30	..	..	1	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	233
150	80				1	37	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
180	80				1	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
180	100				1	34	..	..	1	30	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	1	52	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	128
350	350	Not adminis- tered.	1	106	1	106	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
No return.	No return.	..	..	..	1	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3,950	2,530	280	5	656	22	1,038	3	214	1	30	..	..	2	89	28	1,305
500	500	100	..	..	11	860	..	..	2	60	..	..	10	710	23	1,630
350	400	25														
300	..	..												
..														
350	400	12														
1,500	1,300	137	..	..	11	860	..	..	2	60	..	..	10	710	23	1,630
200	40	21	School-house at Castres, long in progress, and still unfinished. Site given for another at the Souffriere.													

DIOCESE OF BARBADOS AND
ARCHDEACONRY

TRINIDAD, TOBAGO, and ST. LUCIA, with the

1841. ISLAND AND PARISH, OR DISTRICT.	Extent in Square Miles.	Population.	CLERGY.	CHURCH ROOM.	
				Churches and Chapels.	
Rural Deanery of St. Vincent's. Parish.	2,400	..		RURAL DEAN.—	
Island of St. Vincent's.	St. George and St. Andrew, united.	10	7,000	J. Checkley, B.A. Rector . R. A. Warner, A. C., ap- pointed in April, 1841.	St. George's Church, 110 by 64 feet. Built 1820. Cost £20,000 sterling (at Kingstown). St. Paul's Chapel, 64 by 35 feet. Built 1840. Cost £1,385 sterling (at Calliaqua). Temporary place of worship (at Buccament) .
	St. Patrick and St. David, united.	40	4,000	F. R. Brathwaite, S. C. C., Rector, resigned in May, 1841. E. Morgan, A. C., ap- pointed in April.	St. Patrick's Church, 74 by 43 feet, not yet con- secrated. Cost £2,260 sterling. Five temporary places of worship, viz., at Ba- rouallie, Layou, Cumberland Valley, Château Belair, and Morne Ronde.
	Charlotte parish (24 miles in length).	80	7,300	W. W. Jackson, S. C. C., Rector.	Parish Church, 70 by 45 feet, in progress. Four temporary places of worship, viz., at George Town, Union Estate, Mount Greenan, and Lot 14.
	Bequia and the Grenadines	20	2,000	T. A. Browne, S. C. C., Rector.	Parish Church, 60 by 30 feet, in Bequia . . Chapel-school, 40 by 20 feet, at Union Island .
		150	20,300	Five clergy	Fourteen in actual use
Rural Deanery of Grenada. Parish.				RURAL DEAN.—	
Island of Grenada.	St. George	26	9,000	J. C. Barker, Rector . . .	St. George's Church, built 1825. Cost about £8,800 sterling. Chapel-school, in town, in progress. St. Paul's Chapel-school, erected 1839, bat not yet fitted up. Cost £315 sterling.
	St. John and St. Mark, united. * Absent.	24	5,000	S. M. Brathwaite, S. C. C. Rector.* Curate reported to be on his way from England.	Old Church, St. John's, taken down, now in progress. Temporary place of worship St. Mark's Chapel-school, consecrated 1840 . .
	St. Andrew and St. David, united.	50	7,750	J. P. Wall, S. C. C., Rector	St. Andrew's Church. Erected 1831 St. David's Church. Erected 1831 St. Clement's Chapel-school, 30 by 30 feet. Erected 1839.
	St. Patrick	16	2,300	J. A. Bascom, S. C. C., Rector May, 1841.	Parish Church.
	Island of Carriacou . .	11	3,760	J. C. Shapley, Rector . .	Parish Church.
		127	27,810	Five	Six in use

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.
OF BARBADOS.

RURAL DEANERIES of St. VINCENT's and GRENADA—continued.

Attendance at			Friendly Societies.		Schools, in connexion with the Church, for the Religious Instruction of the Poor.											
No. of Sittings.	Public Worship	Communion.	No. of Societies	Nos. in each.	National.		Infant.		Evening.		Estate.		Sunday.		Aggregate.	
					No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.	No.	Attend- ance.
REV. J. CHECKLEY, B. A.																
1,300	800	237	3	484	3	155	1	44	1	20	..	..	1	120	10	479
700	170	Not yet admd.	..	..	1	54	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	47		
250	250	Not admd.	..	..	1	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	24		
640																
1,200	1,350	142	4	923	4	235	1	79	..	..	5	128	3	439	13	881
990	1,150	70	2	721	4	156	..	..	..	..	3	82	4	335	11	573
300	250	..	about to be formed.		1	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	112	3	193
200	100	..	..	..	1	61	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5,580	4,070	449	9	1,128	15	696	2	123	1	20	8	210	11	1,077	37	2,126

REV. J. C. BARKER.

820	650	160	..	..	3	269	1	93	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	412
..	..	..	..	..	1	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
					4											
100	75	35	..	..	4	86	1	58	..	..	..	..	1	15	7	219
250	No ret.	..	..	..	1	60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
350	No ret.	25	..	..	1	52	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	163
200	No ret.	12	..	..	1	51	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Not yet fitted up	..	..	..	..	..	60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
375	300	18	..	..	1	41	1	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	66
400	300	..	..	..	2	187	..	..	..	..	5	281	1	26	8	478*
2,495	..	250	15	856	3	176	5	281	2	41	25	1,338*

* After deducting 16 for double entry.

LONDON:
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PAPERS

RELATIVE TO THE

WEST INDIES.

BRITISH GUIANA.

1841-2.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1842.

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P A P E R S

RELATIVE TO

B R I T I S H G U I A N A .

(No. 41.)

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, April 27, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the returns of stipendiary magistrates for the month of March.

No. 1.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure in No. 1.

EPILOGUE of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints for March, 1841.

Encl. in No. 1.

Magistrates.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Offences.	How disposed of.
T. Coleman . . .	0	. . . . .	. . . . .
A. van R. de Groot	0	. . . . .	. . . . .
W. J. Brittain . .	0	. . . . .	. . . . .
C. R. Whinfield . .	0	. . . . .	. . . . .
A. M. Lyons . . .	0	(Returned from sick leave on 31st March.)	. . . . .
J. O. L. Mure . . .	2	Complaints between labourers, arising out of a superstitious practice of turning a key upon the Bible to detect thieves.	In one case the accused sentenced to a week's imprisonment, with hard labour; in the other, being the second similar conviction, committed to stand his trial before the Supreme Court.
K. Heyland . . .	6	2 preferred by plantation labourers against their employers for withholding wages.	In one case ten dollars and a half recovered with five dollars as compensation; the other disproved and dismissed.
		4 preferred by journeymen carpenters against master carpenters for the recovery of wages.	Inability to pay. Further proceedings suspended for three months by mutual consent.
D. Macleanman . .	7	1 carpenter against coachmaker for five days' work.	Three dollars awarded to the complainant.
		3 preferred by managers against labourers to obtain their ejectment from the houses they occupied or their labour for the estate.	One case dismissed; in the others the labourers promised their services to the estate on which they resided, and the complaints were withdrawn.
		3 preferred by labourers against employers for withholding wages.	One disproved and dismissed; in another the complainant would not appear; in the third case the complainant recovered ten dollars.
M. L. Fowler . . .	1	Complaint preferred by a labourer against a carpenter for the recovery of wages to the amount of one and	The accused not appearing judgment was given in favour of complainant with one dollar compensation for

Magistrates.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Offences.	How disposed of.
W. H. Ware . .	2	1 complaint preferred by five labourers against the manager of an estate for injury to their provision-grounds by the trespass of a cow, the property of the accused.	Damage estimated at five dollars and paid to the complainants, with one-third of a dollar to each by way of compensation for time lost in preferring and proving their complaint.
		1 complaint by manager against his cook for breach of contract of service.	Accused sentenced to pay two dollars.
J. A. Allen . .	13	Complaints preferred by carpenters and labourers against their respective employers for the recovery of wages.	In nine cases want of funds was pleaded in excuse; in three the complainants claimed more than was due; in one (for one-fourth) the accused pleaded ignorance of the debt. All were amicably settled.
J. MacLeod . .	7	All occurring in the town of New Amsterdam, between carpenters, blacksmiths, and jobbers, for the recovery of wages.	In five cases want of funds was pleaded in excuse; in one the money had not been asked for, and in the other a third party was liable. All were adjusted to the satisfaction of the several complainants.
Geo. Ross . . (Georgetown District.)	49	43 disputed wages' accounts between master and journeymen carpenters, cabinet-makers, boatmen, butchers, tailors, &c.	Seven dismissed; the remainder adjusted according to proof.
		2 preferred by master carpenters against their apprentices for neglecting and absconding from their work.	In one case the accused admonished and dismissed, in the other sentenced to six days' solitary confinement.
		1 apprentice carpenter boy against master for an assault.	Accused sentenced to pay three dollars to complainant.
		1 policeman against a butcher's boy for playing with dice.	Admonished and dismissed.
		1 mother <i>v.</i> father to obtain child's maintenance.	Three dollars awarded.
		1 plantation labourer against a soldier of 70th regiment, for attempting to steal his ducks by night.	The accused sentenced to three weeks' imprisonment with hard labour.

SUMMARY of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints for the month of March, 1841.

Messrs. Stipendiary Justices Coleman, De Groot, Brittain, and Whinfield report that they had no complaints between masters and servants preferred before them during the month of March.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Mure's record contains two cases, both of which are complaints between labourers, arising out of a certain superstitious practice of turning a key upon the Bible, as a means of detecting persons guilty of theft. In one case the two accused were sentenced to a week's imprisonment, with hard labour, under Her Majesty's Order in Council of the 7th of September, 1838, for the suppression of vagrancy. In the other, which was the second conviction for a similar offence, the party was committed to stand his trial before the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Heyland's record contains six cases of complaints, of which two were preferred by plantation labourers against their managers for withholding wages; in one case the accused admitted the charge, but justified himself on the plea that the complainant had wilfully lost a saddle, of nearly double the amount of wages due. The accused was nevertheless ordered to pay 10½ dollars wages, with 5 dollars compensation for the injury and loss of time he had occasioned to the complainant; the other case was dismissed. The remaining four cases were preferred by journeymen carpenters against a master carpenter, for the recovery of various sums due for work performed, which were severally admitted by the accused; but owing to disappointments, he pleaded inability to meet them at the moment, and

amendment, and the complaints were withdrawn. The remaining three cases in this record **BRITISH GUIANA** are complaints preferred by labourers against their managers for non-payment of wages, in one of which the amount claimed was 8d., in another, 6½ dollars, and in the other, 10 dollars. The first of these was disproved; in the second, it was maintained that the amount claimed had been paid to some one on behalf of the complainant; the accused was, nevertheless, sentenced to pay the demand: and in the third, the complainant omitted to appear both on the day first appointed, and on the day to which the hearing of the case was, on that account adjourned.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Fowler's record contains one case; a complaint preferred by a labourer against a carpenter, for the recovery of wages, to the amount of 1½ dollars. Defendant not appearing, judgment was given in favour of the complainant, with one dollar for compensation. Warrant issued to carry the sentence into effect.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Strutt's record contains one case; a complaint preferred by a labourer against his manager for an assault. The accused pleaded guilty to having given the complainant one slap on the face, and was sentenced to pay a fine of 1l. sterling, in favour of complainant.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Ware's record contains two cases. The first is a complaint preferred by five labourers against the manager of an estate in the neighbourhood of that on which they were employed, for injury to their provision grounds by the trespass of a cow, the property of the accused; the damage was estimated at five dollars, which, together with one-third of a dollar to each of the complainants as compensation for loss of time in preferring and substantiating the charge, was readily paid by the party accused. The other case is a complaint preferred by a manager of an estate against his cook for a breach of contract of service in absenting himself without any sufficient cause for three days successively; the existence of a lunar month's contract was proved, and the accused sentenced to pay a penalty of two dollars.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Allen's record contains 13 cases of complaints preferred by carpenters and labourers against their respective employers for the recovery of wages; in nine of which, want of funds was pleaded as an excuse for non-payment, and a little indulgence as to time agreed to; in three cases, the complainants claimed more than was due, and in one, where the sum of 16d. was claimed, the accused pleaded ignorance of the debt, and forthwith paid it; all were, as stated by the magistrate, "amicably settled."

Mr. Stipendiary Justice M'Leod's record of complaints contains seven cases, all occurring in the town of New Amsterdam, between blacksmiths, carpenters, and jobbers, for the recovery of wages; in all of which the several claims were admitted; in five cases, want of funds was pleaded in excuse for non-payment, and indulgence granted; in one, the money due had not previously been asked for, and payment was forthwith made; in the other, a third party was liable, and an order upon him accepted.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Ross's record for the Georgetown district contains 49 cases; of which 43 are disputed wages accounts between masters and journeymen carpenters, cabinet-makers, boatmen, butchers, tailors, &c., seven of which were dismissed, and in the remainder, awards made according to the evidence; two are complaints preferred against apprentice carpenter boys for neglecting and absconding from their masters' service, in one of which the accused was admonished and dismissed, and in the other, sentenced to six days' solitary confinement in the colony gaol; one is a complaint preferred by an apprentice carpenter boy against his master for an assault, for which the accused was sentenced to pay three dollars; one is a complaint preferred by a policeman against a butcher's boy for playing with dice, which was dismissed with admonition. Another is a complaint preferred by the mother of a child against its father to obtain maintenance money, in which three dollars were awarded to the complainant; and the remaining case, as yet unnoticed, is a complaint preferred by a plantation labourer working in the neighbourhood of the town, against a private soldier of the 70th regiment, for attempting at midnight to rob the complainant of some ducks; convicted and sentenced, under Her Majesty's Order in Council for the suppression of vagrancy, to three weeks' imprisonment with hard labour.

Respectfully submitted by
(Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY, Circuit Stipendiary Magistrate.

(No. 42.)

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, April 27, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Codie returns for the month of March. Two deaths are reported, one of fever, the other from debility. Though not mentioned, I understand the fever case arose from hard drinking.

No. 2.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) I have, &c.,
HENRY LIGHT.

BRITISH GUIANA

Enclosure in No. 2.

Encl. in No. 2. MONTHLY REPORT respecting Hill Coolies on Plantations Belle Vue, Wales, and Vreidestein, this 1st April, 1841.

Location.	No. on Estate.			Names of Absentees.	Number of Days Absent.	Deaths since last Report.	Number of Sick this day, and general State of Health during past Month.	Particulars and Result of any Complaints preferred in the course of the past Month.
	Men.	Women.	Children.					
Belle Vue.	56	2	..	Jowhyensing with leave.	June 7, 1839.	None	Number of sick, 5; general state of health during past month good.	
Wales.	50	2	3	None	..	Of fever, Hurry Maugee, March 16, 1841. Kyrt Allee March 19, debility.	Number of sick, 6. "The general health of the Coolies located on Plantation Wales has been pretty good, although a number of them came with sores, and one or two perfect invalids. One of them died from exhaustion and debility, also an old man about 60 of fever on the third day. I am happy now to report that all three cases of sores have been completely cured."	
Vreidestein	21	..	..	None	..	None	(Signed) A. Housroun, Medical Attendant. April 2, 1841. No. of sick, 2. "I have to report that the general health of the Coolies located here has been very good for the last month." (Signed) A. Housroun, Medical Attendant. Vreidestein, April 2, 1841.	

J. O. LOCKHART MURE, Stipendiary Justice of the Peace, District D.

MONTHLY REPORT respecting the Hill Coolies on Plantation Highbury, 1st April, 1841.

Number on Estate.			Names of Absentees.	Number of Days Absent.	Deaths since last Report; Names and Dates.	Number of Sick on 31st ult., and general State of their Health during the last Month.	Particulars and Result of any Complaint preferred in the course of the past Month.
Men.	Women.	Children.					
93	7	10	None	..	No death. One birth	Fifteen (9 with sores.) "General state of health good." (Signed) J COLLYMORE.	No complaint.

J. M'LEOD, Stipendiary Magistrate, K. District.

MONTHLY REPORT respecting the Hill Coolies on Plantation Waterloo, this 1st day of April, 1841.

Number on Estate.			Names of Absentees.	Number of Days Absent.	Number of Sick on 31st ult. and general State of their Health during the past Month.	Particulars and Results of any Complaints preferred in the course of the past Month.
Men.	Women.	Children.				
39	Puckera	30	9 Good.	None.

Office of Stipendiary Magistrate, District I.,
County Berbice, 1st April, 1841.RICHARD W. EGG, Manager.
1st April, 1841.

A. VAN RYCK DE GROOT, Stipendiary Justice of the Peace.

MONTHLY REPORT respecting the Hill Coolies on Plantation Anna Regina, this 1st day of April, 1841.

Number on Estate.			Names of Absentees.	Number of Days Absent.	Deaths since last Report; Names and Dates.	Number of Sick on 31st ult., and general State of their Health during the past Month.	Particulars and Results of any Complaints preferred by Coolies in the course of the last Month.
Men.	Women.	Children.					
43	3	6	None	..	No death	One sick Doctor's remark:— "The Coolies have enjoyed very good health during the past month, with only one exception."	No complaints preferred.

(No. 50.)

No. 3.

BRITISH GUIANA

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, May 4, 1841.

IN conformity with the item placed on the estimate for 1841, and agreed to by Sir Henry M'Leod, I considered I was authorized to permit the purchase of the Venezuela steamer, 180-horse power, brought out to Barbados by Messrs. Cavan and Company, for which purchase the sum of 47,000 dollars was paid by bills, the last instalment to be in August. The Venezuela will be employed as occasion requires for emigration purposes; and is under a committee of management, subject to my approval of their arrangements.

My consent was given also to communication with England for the purchase of another steamer for emigration purposes, for the service of the colony. The speedy intercourse with the islands by these means, and return there free of expense, will I trust enable this colony to profit by those intervals in the season of crop, peculiar to the islands, beneficial to all parties, without exciting the jealousy of the islands with regard to this favoured province, where no intermission of crop exists.

I have only to regret that such mode of communication had not been adopted, as earnestly pressed by me, two years ago.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

No. 3.

(No. 51.)

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, May 21, 1841.

ON the 12th instant I received a Despatch from the British Legation at Rio, of which I have the honour to transmit copy. It was accompanied by letters from the sheriff of Berbice and agent of emigrants, of which copies are herewith transmitted.

It appears that the Portuguese captured slaver Dous de Fevereiro, alluded to in Mr. Ouseley's Despatch, had been forced to put into Berbice from distress, having had a voyage of 53 days instead of 35, and 20 of the Africans had died on the passage. The remaining 160 were immediately disembarked; the sick taken to the hospital at New Amsterdam, the healthy sent to a building provided for them, where they still remain, well taken care of and provided with food and clothing.

Of the sick, four have since died, and one remained in the last report in a precarious state. The rest are convalescent, or in a fair way of recovery.

As this colony has made due provision, according to Act of Parliament, for the reception and care of Africans introduced, after consultation with the law officers, I considered it my duty to relieve Her Majesty's Government of all expense, though I have left the nominal superintendence by the collector of Her Majesty's customs to him until the condemnation by the Vice-Admiralty Court here of the captured slaver. Copies of my correspondence with the collector are herewith transmitted. When your Lordship has been satisfied by the documents transmitted that every precautionary measure has been enforced for the proper treatment of the Africans. I respectfully trust that what I have done will be approved.

It has been determined in the Court of Policy to send the Venezuela steamer, lately purchased, to Rio Janeiro, to bring back the remainder of the Africans captured in the Portuguese slaver, by which the length of voyage may be diminished to 18 or 20 days; and the authority given to the British Minister to incur any expense in the transport of captured Africans to this colony will I hope facilitate his views in their transfer. It has been considered as a great boon, and the colonists are disposed to act in the most liberal way, in accordance with the views of Her Majesty's Government. In the interest of this colony, I respectfully urge your Lordship's favourable support to the continuance of a transfer of such captured Africans as may be at the disposal of the British Minister at Rio de Janeiro to this colony.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

No. 4.

Nos. 1 and 2.

Not received.

No. 3 to 9.

Vide copy of my reply to Mr. Ouseley.

BRITISH GUIANA

Enclosure 1, in No. 4.

Encl. 1, in No. 4.

Sir,

British Legation, Rio de Janeiro, March 17, 1841.

I HAVE thought it my duty to recommend that the Portuguese slave brig Dous de Fevereiro, known under many other names as the "Fortuna," "Duas Franaas," &c., lately captured under the new Act of Parliament by Her Majesty's brigantine Fawn, should be sent to Demerara for adjudication, with 180 of the Africans found on board her, it not being possible, consistently with the health and safety of the prize crew and Africans, to send more than that number at once. Such of the remainder of the negroes as are in good health are for the present on board Her Majesty's receiving ship Crescent; the sick are in an hospital ship.

As there can be no defence made in the case of this capture, having 380 negroes on board when taken, remaining alive out of 500 shipped on the coast of Africa, I take the liberty of strongly recommending that the Dous de Fevereiro, which, from a survey held upon her here, appears to be in remarkably good order, and is reported a fast sailer, should be, with her prize crew, sent back hither as soon as possible. The Fawn is a very small cruiser (formerly the "Carolina" slaver, taken on this coast), and the absence of an officer and prize crew much weakens her complement.

The Dous de Fevereiro will then probably (unless another opportunity occurs in the mean time by the capture of a vessel without Africans on board, or otherwise, or unless Rear-Admiral Sir Edward King, commander-in-chief on this station, should adopt a different course), be again sent to Demerara with the remainder of the Africans, in charge of whatever officer and prize crew the commander-in-chief may think fit to send with her.

I have been informed that labourers, such as those now forwarded by the Dous de Fevereiro, are in request at the colony under your Excellency's Government, and I should be obliged by having your opinion and recommendation as to the propriety or comparative expediency of sending from hence in future, when opportunity offers, other Africans under circumstances similar to those from on board the Dous de Fevereiro to Demerara, Trinidad, or any of the West India Islands.

The objects of Her Majesty's Government being, I am convinced, best served in the present instance, both for the advantage of the Africans and that of Her Majesty's colonial possessions, by sending the negroes to the colony under your Excellency's Government, I venture to request your countenance and assistance to Mr. Johnstone, the officer in charge of Dous de Fevereiro, so as to enable him, with the men and vessel under his command, to return as soon as possible to this capital. In case of bad weather, or other accidental circumstances, so far injuring the Dous de Fevereiro as to render her unseaworthy or occasion much loss of time in repairs and refitting, could a passage be provided for Mr. Johnstone and the prize crew to Pará, they might thence proceed by the monthly steam-packets to this port with but little delay.

Not being aware of the resources of the colony under your Excellency's Government, nor with its local circumstances, it is with diffidence that I suggest the possibility of allowing a steamer to tow the Dous de Fevereiro some part of her way so as to obtain an offing should she return hither at once.

His Excellency Henry Light, Esq.,
Governor of British Guiana.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. G. OUSELEY.

(A true Copy.)

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

Enclosure 2, in No. 4.

Sir,

Government House, Demerara, May 15, 1841.

Encl. 2, in No. 4.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th March, by the Portuguese brig (slaver) Dous de Fevereiro.

Directions have been given to the Queen's advocate in the Admiralty to expedite the adjudication, and I am informed that within seventeen days from the first steps being taken, the matter will be brought to a conclusion.

Inclosed you will receive copy of the report of sheriff of the county of Berbice, notifying the arrival in that district of this Government, of the brig, with 160 negroes, and explanatory of the measures which have been adopted for their reception and maintenance. On this subject I also enclose the copy of report of the emigration agent; these documents, will, I trust, prove satisfactory to you.

There will not be the slightest difficulty in procuring an immediate and advantageous location on estates of those Africans who are not in the hospital, and this will be the case with any number not exceeding 5000, which you may be enabled to transfer to this colony in any one year.

There are funds already appropriated and applicable to the introduction of labourers into this colony amounting to upwards of 55,000*l.* sterling.

I have the honour to enclose an extract minute of the proceedings of the local legislature, by which you will perceive that any necessary expenses incurred by you or under your authority in the transport of captured Africans will be immediately defrayed.

I also enclose an ordinance, No. 68, enacted in 1836, and approved by the Crown, on the provision for the maintenance out of the colonial funds of Africans transferred to this colony.

This ordinance is in some particulars, (namely, as respects the magistracy who are to have jurisdiction over the Africans and the period of indenture into which, if they so please and

find it to be their interest to enter), modified by Her Majesty's Orders in Council, of the 7th September, 1838, also herewith enclosed. BRITISH GUIANA

I also enclose an ordinance recently enacted for the encouragement of the introduction of labourers into this colony, framed on a draft transmitted to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State, Colonial Department, and the confirmation of which by Her Majesty is momentarily expected.

No. 4. 1841.

The resources of this colony are so great if hands can be obtained for their development, that I venture to express my earnest wishes to you, that you would use your influence in favour of this, the nearest and most fertile of Her Majesty's colonial possessions, where wages are high, where an able-bodied man may earn a dollar per day in seven or eight hours, where houses, provision-grounds, and medical attendance are afforded in addition to wages, where schools, chapels, churches, and ministers of every denomination of Christians, are within reach of the mass, and where the mass are more strictly protected in their rights than perhaps in any country in the world.

This Despatch will be conveyed to you by the Venezuela steamer belonging to this colony, lately purchased for emigration purposes, 347 tons and 150-horse power, and by tonnage, authorised to embark 208 persons, and in her or in any other vessel, you are authorised un'er the guarantee given, to forward any number at your disposal.

Vide Minute of the Court of Policy.

It being the opinion of the Crown lawyers here, of which copy is herewith transmitted, that the prize vessel cannot be allowed to depart for Rio even after adjudication, Mr. Johnstone and the prize crew will return with the Venezuela, and I am thus enabled to comply with your wish for his speedy return.

No. 4.

If you should think it necessary to employ a surgeon to accompany the Africans from Rio, either in the Venezuela or any other vessel that may hereafter be sent, the guarantee to cover all necessary expenses, will be a sufficient authority to you to engage one for the voyage, and for any stores or provisions you may think right to order.

On Mr. Johnstone's arrival at George Town, the Court of Policy immediately provided for his expenses at an hotel.

W. G. Ouseley, Esq.
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.
Governor of British Guiana.

Enclosure 3, in No. 4.

Sir,

Custom-House, Demerara, May 13, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith an extract of a report from the sub-collector of Berbice, relative to certain captured slaves which have been carried into Berbice, and request that your Excellency will be pleased to give me your directions thereon.

Encl. 3, in No. 4.

His Excellency Henry Light, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES ROBINSON, Collector.

EXTRACT of a Report from the Sub-collector of Berbice.

Sir,

Custom-House, Berbice, May, 1841.

I HASTEN to inform you that a foreign vessel, either a Brazilian or Venezuelan, arrived here this morning with 160 slaves on board, captured on the coast of Venezuela by the schooner Fawn, (a tender to Her Majesty's ship Crescent, stationed at Rio de Janeiro.)

Immediately on her coming to, I sent an officer on board to obtain information, whose report, on returning to the office, I beg leave to enclose.

I have not seen the prize-master, nor have I had any application relative to the vessel or slaves. I understand, however, that the prize-master has been in communication with his honour the sheriff upon the subject, and that he is about to land some portion of the slaves.

I have therefore to beg you will be pleased to favour me with your instructions hereon by an early opportunity; but should the prize-master call upon me to interfere in the meantime, I shall recommend him to proceed to Demerara, as it is not a case of distress, or one requiring immediate relief.

P.S.—Since writing the enclosed, I have learned that the sheriff has directed Mr. Lowenfeld, as immigration agent, to take charge of the slaves, and for which purpose a building has been rented for their accommodation. It is said by the prize-master, that the Mixed Commission at Rio has passed sentence of condemnation.

(Signed) JOHN TULL, Sub-collector.

The Collector of Her Majesty's Customs, Demerara.

COPY of Officer's Report referred to.

THE prize-office being on shore, all the information I could collect from the sailors was, that the vessel was captured by the Fawn schooner off the coast of Venezuela, on her way to Rio de Janeiro, had on board, when taken, 375 slaves, 13 of whom died on the passage to Rio, died on board at Rio, 12, left on board the Crescent at Rio, 170, brought from thence to Berbice, 160, 20 having died on the passage. The mate and the seamen are all of the original crew now on board.

(Signed) R. B. RITCHIE, L. W.

Twelve o'clock, noon, May 11, 1841.

BRITISH GUIANA

Enclosure 4, in No. 4.

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara,
May 13, 1841.

Sir,

Encl. 4, in No. 4.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, and to acquaint you that previously to its receipt his Excellency was aware of the arrival at Berbice of the captured negroes therein mentioned.

The vessel, in charge of a prize-master and crew, has been sent here for adjudication; and the necessary directions for that purpose have already been issued to the proper officers, and every exertion will be made to facilitate the views expressed in regard to these people by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Rio, who has officially communicated with the Governor on the subject.

Every thing necessary for the due care of the Africans has been already provided by the resident emigration agent, who will act in conjunction with the sheriff of the district, and in obedience to such instructions as his Excellency may from time to time find it necessary to issue.

Employment will be immediately found for all who are capable of undertaking it, and you are already aware that ample provision from the Colonial funds has been made for defraying the expenses of the reception and temporary maintenance of persons introduced into this colony to recruit our labouring population. The sick are in hospital with proper medical attendance, under the supervision of the sheriff and Board of Church and Poor's Fund, and the others are in a comfortable building at Plantation Overwinning, which the owner had, previously to the arrival of these Africans, given over to the emigration agent.

Under these circumstances, his Excellency has not any instructions at present to give you respecting these Africans.

Having been engaged in Court with the Governor all day, I must request you to excuse the haste with which this letter has been written. I have, &c.,

Charles Robinson, Esq., (Signed)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

Collector of Her Majesty's Customs.

Enclosure 5, in No. 4.

Sir,

Custom-House, Demerara, May 14, 1841.

Encl. 5, in No. 4.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, referring to the case and disposal of the captured Africans sent into this colony by Her Majesty's schooner Fawn (as tender to Her Majesty's ship Crescent.) Herewith I have the honour to transmit, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, a copy of the Order of Her Majesty's Treasury on this subject, as conveyed in a letter from Mr. Gordon of the 10th of October last, to the Honourable Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs, and by them transmitted to their several collectors in these Colonies for their information and government. As these orders, founded on the several Acts of Parliament and Orders in Council for the abolition of the slave trade, throw a very weighty responsibility on the head of this department, and as it is only within a few days that corresponding instructions and orders have been received relative to this mode of defraying the expenses, &c., of this service, I would respectfully submit to his Excellency whether the transferring this duty to the sheriff and emigration agent must not have the effect of releasing this department from further responsibility, the more especially as that in the second page of the regulations for the guidance of the collectors, transmitted by my Lord John Russell, and received here on the 19th April last, it is stated that "the duties imposed upon the collector, in respect of this service, are to be performed by himself, assisted by the officers of his department, and not to be deputed by others, he will be responsible for the service being conducted," &c.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,

(Signed) CHARLES ROBINSON, Collector.

&c. &c.

Gentlemen,

Treasury Chambers, October 10, 1840.

THE attention of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury has been called to the arrangements it may be proper to make for the reception and disposal of Africans captured under instructions which have been issued in regard to the Portuguese slave trade, or under other circumstances which may render it necessary that they should be landed in the nearest British colony, or where no Court competent to adjudicate on the capture may exist, and that immediate provision should be made for their temporary maintenance.

With reference to this subject, as it appears to my Lords that certain instructions which have been conveyed to the Governors of colonies have tended to interfere with the regulations by which the charge of Africans landed from captured slave vessels would devolve on the officers of your department at the place of debarkation, they have signified to Her Majesty's Secretary of State their opinion that the collector of customs is the fittest person for that charge, especially in cases in which the expense of maintaining the people landed, is to fall on the funds of this

being so landed, the expense must be defrayed, as heretofore, by bills on this Board, which the governors will draw under the existing regulations, in favour of the collector of customs, and in this case it would be the duty of the collector to take immediate measures under the directions of the officers in charge of the local governments for the transfer of the people to the nearest colony in which provision for receiving them has been made.

I am likewise to desire you will cause the officers of your department in the Colonies to be apprized of the intention of this Board, and the Secretary of State, in the several respects above adverted to, for their guidance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

(No. 36.)

Custom House, London, 15th October, 1840.

THE foregoing copy of a letter from Mr. Gordon, one of the Secretaries of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, is transmitted to the collector at Demerara for his information and guidance.

(A true Copy.)
CHARLES ROBINSON, Collector.

By order of the Commissioners.
(Signed) J. KER.

Enclosure 6, in No. 4.

Sir,

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, 18th May, 1841.

Encl. 6, in No. 4.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, enclosing the copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Commissioners of the Customs, dated 10th October, 1841. Having referred these papers to the Attorney and Solicitor General, the former officer being also Queen's Advocate in Admiralty, I beg to enclose a copy of their opinion, received this day. The Governor desires me to observe that this opinion coincides with the view of the case conveyed to you by His Excellency's directions, in my letter of the 13th instant.

The Treasury regulations have reference to cases in which, from the absence of any provisions from the local public funds, it is necessary that Her Majesty's Government should incur the expense of the temporary maintenance of captured Africans. The regulations then prescribe duties to the collector, to be performed under the sanction of the Governor; entitle the collector to a remuneration for the trouble of superintending the care and maintenance of the Africans of one guinea for each African, and directs him to take immediate steps for their transfer to some colony, in which provision for their care and maintenance shall have been provided.

Under this description it is evident that British Guiana is included, and as, subordinately to the welfare of the Africans, the spirit of the Treasury regulations will best be consulted by saving unnecessary expense to the mother country, his Excellency requests that you will consider your duty in respect to these Africans to be merely nominal, and that you have no other functions to perform than those formal acts which may be necessary to expedite the adjudication, and entitle the captors to the usual bounty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

The Hon. Charles Robinson,
Collector of Her Majesty's Customs.

This being a colony in which ample provision has been made for the support of captured Africans, we are of opinion that the collector's duty as regards those lately brought into Berbice becomes, after adjudication, merely nominal, and that there is no necessity for Her Majesty's Government to incur any expense for their maintenance.

We would recommend the officer of the prize to hand over these persons to the collector of the customs in the first instance, whose duty we conceive it will then be to place them, after adjudication, at the disposal of the executive Government, to be dealt with (if necessary) according to the provisions of the Order in Council of the 7th September, 1838.

(Signed) HENRY GLOSTOR, Attorney General.
WILLIAM FURLONGE, Solicitor General.

Enclosure 7, in No. 4.

Sir,

Custom House, Demerara, 20th May, 1841.

Encl. 7, in No. 4.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, this morning received, on the subject of the captured Africans sent into this colony by Her Majesty's schooner "Fawn," and fully concurring in opinion with his Excellency that subordinate to the welfare of the Africans themselves is the necessity of incurring no expense to Her Majesty's Government that can be avoided, I would still respectfully suggest that it is a matter for his Excellency's consideration, whether the duty of receiving, landing, and placing such of the people as may require it in the Colonial Hospital (at the expense of the colony), and delivering over the remainder (convalescents) to the Colonial Sub-immigration Agent, for the purpose of obtaining proper employment, &c., in the terms of the Order in Council of September, 1838, should be performed by the authority contemplated in the several Acts of Parliament for the abolition of the Slave Trade, Order in Council, and recent instructions received

BRITISH GUIANA hereat (to wit) the head of this department, or whether those duties are to be transferred to the sheriff of that district of this colony in which they may happen to arrive. I would further respectfully suggest, for his Excellency's consideration, that the object of the Legislature in charging the collectors of customs in the several colonies with this duty, would appear to be to have throughout them all one uniform mode of performing the service, and one well known and acknowledged authority, to whom, under the responsibility of office, they may call for necessary information.

Entertaining, as I do, the highest opinion of the character and qualifications of the sheriff of Berbice, I would still respectfully urge that nothing has been done by that authority in this matter that could not equally well have been performed by the proper authority there, the Sub-collector of Her Majesty's Customs, and equally without incurring expense to Her Majesty's Government. At the same time I beg leave to assure his Excellency that such part of my duties as the Court of Vice-Admiralty may deem to be essentially formal acts on my part shall be most readily performed, leaving it to Her Majesty's Government to decide the extent of responsibility I am to incur for matters over which I have no knowledge or control.

I have, &c.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
Government Secretary.

(Signed) CHARLES ROBINSON, Collector.

Enclosure 8, in No. 4.

Sir,

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, 21st May, 1841.

Encl. 8, in No. 4.

I HAVE had the honour this moment of receiving your letter of yesterday's date, in which you state, "I would respectfully suggest that it is a matter for his Excellency's consideration whether the duty of receiving, landing, and placing such of these people as may require it in the Colonial Hospital (at the expense of the colony), and delivering over the remainder (convalescent) to the Colonial Sub-immigration Agent, for the purpose of obtaining proper employment, should be transferred to the sheriff of that district of the colony in which they may happen to arrive, or be left with the head of the Custom House department."

Having laid this letter before the Governor, I am desirous to acquaint you that his Excellency has never had the slightest intention, or desire, to transfer the above duties from you to the sheriff. His Excellency had no knowledge of the arrival at Berbice of the Africans until, at the same time, he was informed of the foregoing arrangements having actually taken place. These arrangements appeared to be both necessary and economical; they have received his Excellency's approval, and it is satisfactory to learn from your present letter that they are such as would have been by yourself performed had you been on the spot.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

The Hon. Charles Robinson,
Collector of Her Majesty's Customs.

Enclosure 9, in No. 4.

Sir,

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, 21st May, 1841.

Encl. 9, in No. 4.

WITH reference to the opinion of the Attorney and Solicitor-General, with which you have been furnished, to the effect, that until after adjudication, the captured Africans now in Berbice, are under your nominal charge, but that in consequence of this being a colony in which ample provision has been made for their care and maintenance, it is unnecessary that you should, on behalf of the British Treasury incur any expence or trouble in these respects, I am now directed by the Governor to acquaint you, that having received authentic information of the robust health of the Africans at Plantation Overwinning in lodgings furnished at the expence of the colony, and considering it to be injudicious to keep congregated together so large a number of healthy, ignorant, and unemployed Africans, it is his Excellency's intention to recommend the Africans, through the agency of the emigration officer, the stipendiary magistrate of the district, his honour the sheriff and of yourself, should your other avocations permit of your undertaking the task, to locate themselves on estates, to be hereafter selected, and in domestic service, and under precautions for their health and comfort, of which a memorandum is in course of preparation by his Excellency. Previously, however, to this measure being adopted, the Governor desires me to inquire whether you have any objection to consider the Africans, as much under your nominal charge when thus located, without indenture, as they are nominally under your charge, at the public colonial place of reception and maintenance at Plantation Overwinning. Until after adjudication, the Africans cannot be deemed denizens of the colony.

I have, &c.

The Hon. Charles Robinson,
Collector of Her Majesty's Customs.

(Signed) H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

(No. 218.)

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Governor LIGHT.

No. 5.

Sir,

Downing-street, 16th July, 1841.

In the mean time, I have to observe that two of the documents alluded to in your **BRITISH GUIANA** Despatch, as being transmitted—the letters from the sheriff of Berbice, and the agent of immigrants, appear to have been accidentally omitted among the enclosures. In the absence of these letters, the information contained in your Despatch is incomplete in some material points, especially as to the number of the sick. You will have the goodness to furnish me with copies of them.

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

(Signed)

I have, &c.

J. RUSSELL.

(No. 54.)

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, 22nd May, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Coolie returns for the month of April, no deaths, and trifling sickness.

No. 6.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure in No. 6.

MONTHLY REPORTS respecting Hill Coolies on Plantations Vreidestein, Wales, and Belle Vue, this 1st day of May, 1841.

Encl. in No. 6.

Location.	Number on Estate.			Absentees' Names.	Days absent.	Deaths since last Report.	Number of Sick this Day, and general State of Health during past Month. Doctor's Opinion.	Particulars and Result of any Complaints preferred in the course of the past Month.
	Men.	Women.	Children.					
Belle Vue . .	56	2	..	Jowhyersing, absent on leave.	From 7th June, 1839.	None	13. Colds prevalent. General Health good.	Assault, and short issue of provisions. No assault committed. The issue of provisions proved to be agreeably to stipulation, and equal to the consumption of the complainant.
Wales . . .	50	2	3	None . . .	. .	None	18. Ditto, ditto . .	None.
Vreidestein .	22	..	..	None . . .	. .	None	12. Ditto, ditto . .	None.

R. HEYLAND, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY REPORT respecting the Hill Coolies on Plantation Highbury, 1st May, 1841.

Number on Estate.			Absentees' Names.	Number of Days absent.	Death since last Report. Name and Date.	Number of Sick on 30th Ult. General State of their Health during last Month.	Particulars and Result of any Complaint preferred in the course of last Month.
Men.	Women.	Children.					
93	7	10	None . .	. .	No death . .	14 in hospital . . . "General state of health good." (Signed) JOHN COLLYMORE.	No complaint.

J. M'LEOD, Stipendiary Magistrate, K. District.

BRITISH GUIANA MONTHLY REPORT of Coolies on Plantation Waterloo, I. District, Berbice, British Guiana, the Property of Messrs. Henry Davidson and Henry Barkly, London; 1st May, 1841.

	Men.	Women.	Total.	Absentees.	Number of Days Absent.	Names of those who have died since last Report.	Cause of Death.	Number sick, 30th Ult., and general State of their Health during the Month.	Nature of Sickness.	Particulars and Result of any Complaints that may have been preferred during the past Month.
Number on the estate, 1st ult.	39	..	39	None . .	..	None . . . .	..	Mungallaw . Sore.	..	None.
Number of deaths since	..	..	..					Matterdeen . Whitlow.	..	
Number on the estate, 1st inst.	39	..	39					Coodes . Int. Fever.	..	
								Deelooa . Ditto.	..	
								Chummaum . Boil.	..	
								Rambachus . Itch.	..	
								Their health has been good.	..	

RICHARD W. EGG, Manager, 1st May, 1841. Office of Stipendiary Magistrate, District I., County Berbice, this 1st May, 1841. A. VAN RYCK DE GROOT, Stipendiary Justice of Peace.

MONTHLY REPORT respecting the Hill Coolies on Plantation Anna Regina, this 1st day of May, 1841.

Number on Estate.			Names of Absentees.	Number of Days absent.	Deaths since last Report. Names and Dates.	Number of Sick on 30th Ult., and general State of their Health during the past Month.	Particulars and Results of any Complaint preferred by Coolies in the course of the past Month.
Men.	Women.	Children.					
43	3	6	None . .	..	No death . .	One	No complaint preferred.
						Doctor's Remark :— "The Coolies are enjoying very good health upon Anna Regina." (Signed) D. BRIDGES, Medical Practitioner.	

WALTER HOWARD WARE, Stipendiary Magistrate.

(No. 55.) No. 7. COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL. My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 22nd May, 1841. No. 7. I HAVE the honour to transmit the stipendiary magistrates' returns for the month of April. I have, &c. The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, (Signed) HENRY LIGHT. &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 7. AN EPILOGUE of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints for April, 1841.

Magistrates.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Offences.	How disposed of.
T. Coleman . .	0	. . . .	. . . .
A. van R. de Groot	0	. . . .	. . . .
W. J. Brittain . .	0	. . . .	. . . .
C. R. Whinfield . .	0	. . . .	. . . .
J. O. L. Mure . .	0	. . . .	. . . .
A. M. Lyons . .	1	Complaint preferred by a boat captain against a shop keeper for the recovery of wages.	Judgment for 18½ dollars, with 1 dollar compensation for time lost in preferring his complaint.
C. H. Strutt . .	1	Complaint preferred by a plantation engineer against the manager for the recovery of wages.	Judgment in favour of complainant for the full amount claimed. Four dollars, 40 cents.
K. Heyland . .	3	2 Complaints preferred by plantation labourers against their managers for the recovery of wages.	One dismissed as groundless; the other compromised, complainant receiving half a dollar.

Magistrates.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Offences.	How disposed of.
D. MacLennan .	9	1 complaint preferred by an indentured Hill Coolie labourer, charging his manager with issuing to him a short allowance of provisions.	Disproved and dismissed.
		3 complaints preferred by plantation labourers against their managers, alleging short payment of wages.	Claims incorrectly stated. One dismissed; the other two adjusted according to the amounts due.
		2 complaints preferred by plantation managers, charging some of their labourers with working elsewhere than on the estate where they were allowed the gratuitous occupancy of their cottages, provision-grounds, &c.	Both cases amicably arranged.
		1 complaint by a carpenter against a labourer to obtain payment for repairs to a boat.	Five dollars agreed to and paid.
		1 complaint by a labourer against a bricklayer to recover payment for labour performed.	Claim stated at 18 dollars, 48 cents. Found to be grossly incorrect, and judgment given for 2½ dollars.
M. L. Fowler .	4	1 complaint by a manager, charging one of his labourers with having wantonly made a fire in a cane field, and thereby destroyed 2½ acres canes.	Dismissed with admonition.
		1 complaint by a labourer against a task-gang-manager to recover wages.	Judgment for 8½ dollars.
		1 complaint by a carpenter against a boat-builder to recover wages.	Judgment for 27½ dollars, with four dollars compensation for time lost attending the magistrate's office.
		1 complaint by a carrier against a shop-keeper to recover wages.	Accounts adjusted, and case compromised.
		1 complaint by a midwife against a female labourer to obtain payment for services performed.	Three dollars awarded.
J. A. Allen . .	12	1 complaint by a female labourer, charging her manager with non-payment of wages.	Proved to have been paid, and dismissed.
		9 complaints preferred by labourers to recover alleged balances of wages.	One dismissed; in the others awards made according to the sums proved to be due.
		2 complaints preferred by carpenters to recover alleged balances of wages.	Judgments in favour of complainants.
J. Macleod . .	7	1 complaint preferred by one labourer against another for certain unlawful superstitious practices.	Accused severely reprimanded.
		4 complaints by labourers against employers (other labourers) to get paid for various services.	One dismissed; the remainder adjusted to the satisfaction of complainants.
		2 employers against labourers for neglect of work.	One withdrawn; the other fined four dollars.
W. H. Ware . .	1	1 complaint by 14 labourers, charging their employer with driving his cattle into their provision-grounds.	Amicably arranged to the satisfaction of the complainants.
		Complaint preferred by a journeyman carpenter against a builder for the recovery of wages to the amount of 64 dollars 33 cents.	Judgment in favour of complainant, with four dollars compensation for time lost in preferring and proving his claim.
W. J. Sandiford, Georgetown district.	51	47 disputed wages accounts between journeymen tradesmen, domestic servants, &c. and their respective employers.	Fourteen dismissed; remainder adjusted according to the evidence.
		1 complaint preferred by a cabinet-maker against his apprentice boy for negligence.	Accused reprimanded.
		2 complaints by apprentice carpenters' boys against their masters for assaults.	One dismissed; in the other the accused sentenced to pay five dollars.
		1 case of assault and counter assault between two labourers.	Referred to the inferior Criminal Court.

BRITISH GUIANA SUMMARY of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints for the Month of April, 1841.

Messrs. Coleman, Mure, Brittain, De Groot, and Whinfield report, that they had no complaints between masters and servants, preferred before them during the month of April.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Lyons' record contains one case; a complaint preferred by a boat captain, against a shop keeper for non-payment of wages to the amount of 18½ dollars; payment ordered, with 1 dollar compensation for time lost in attending at the magistrate's office.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Strutt's record contains one case—a complaint preferred by the engineer of a plantation, against the manager, for the recovery of 4 dollars 40 cents balance of wages. The accused admitted the debt, and assigned as his reason for non-payment, that the complainant had hired himself for a month, but on the tenth day had left the estate without notice, taking with him the key of the engine, to the great hindrance of the estate's work. The complainant pleaded sickness as the cause of his absence, and an award for the full amount claimed was consequently made.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Heyland's record contains three cases of complaints, of which two were preferred by plantation labourers against their managers, for the recovery of wages; one was dismissed as groundless, the other compromised, complainant receiving half a dollar. The third case is, that of an indentured Hill Coolie labourer, charging his manager with issuing to him a short allowance of provisions, which, after a careful investigation, was disproved, and the complaint dismissed.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Maclellan's record contains nine cases, of which three were complaints preferred by plantation labourers, for the recovery of wages, in which the claims were found to be incorrectly stated; one was dismissed, and in the other two awards were made, according to the amounts proved to be due. Two are complaints preferred by managers of estates, charging some of their labourers with the unfair practice of working on other properties, though enjoying the gratuitous occupancy of houses and provision grounds, on the estates of which complainants were the managers; both cases amicably arranged. One is a complaint preferred by a carpenter, against a plantation labourer, to recover the sum of six dollars, for the repairs of a boat; five dollars agreed to and paid. Another is a complaint preferred by a labourer against a bricklayer, for the recovery of eighteen dollars forty-eight cents., alleged to be due for labour performed; the claim was proved to be grossly incorrect, and judgment given for two and a half dollars. The next case is a complaint preferred by the manager of an estate, against one of his labourers, charging him with having wantonly made a fire in a cane field, whereby about two and a half acres of canes were destroyed; the accused declared that the circumstance had arisen accidentally, and at the request of the complainant, the case was dismissed, with merely an admonition.

The remaining case to be noticed, is a complaint preferred by a labourer against a task-gang manager, for the recovery of eight and a half dollars wages; judgment in favour of complainant.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Fowler's record contains four cases; the first is a complaint preferred by a carpenter against a boat-builder, for the recovery of wages to the amount of 27½ dollars, for which he obtains judgment, with four dollars in addition to compensate him for time lost in preferring and substantiating his complaint. The second is a complaint preferred by a carrier against a shopkeeper, for the recovery of fourteen dollars wages; accounts adjusted, and case compromised. The next is a complaint preferred by midwife against a female labourer, to obtain payment for services performed; three dollars awarded. The remaining case, is a complaint by a female labourer, against her manager, charging him with non-payment of her wages, to the amount of two dollars. Proved to have been paid by the overseer, and the case dismissed.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Allen's record contains 12 cases, of which nine were complaints preferred by labourers on estates for the recovery of alleged balances of wages, one was dismissed, and in eight awards were made according to the amounts that appeared to be due, with compensation in those cases where the labourer had lost time in attending at the magistrate's office. Of the remaining three cases, two were complaints preferred by carpenters to recover wages from the master carpenter by whom they had been employed; want of funds was pleaded in excuse, and judgment given in favour of complainants, a short indulgence of time being granted to the accused. The other was a case under Her Majesty's Order in Council of 7th September, 1838, for the suppression of vagrancy; namely, a charge preferred by one labourer against another for what is termed "playing the Bible and key," a vicious practice, of which there have been several convictions of late, the pretended object of which is to discover the perpetrator of a theft. Accused severely reprimanded.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice McLeod's record contains seven cases, of which four were complaints preferred by labourers against other labourers by whom they had been employed for various services, and with whom a misunderstanding had arisen as to the payments to which they were entitled. In one case the complaint was dismissed, in the others, awards were made according to the amounts claimed. Of the remaining three cases one was a complaint by a wood-cutter against one of his labourers, charging him with neglecting to perform his stipulated work. Case withdrawn on admonition. The next, a complaint preferred by the manager of an estate against one of his labourers for a similar offence, though attended with more aggravating circumstances, to which the accused pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to pay a fine of four dollars. The remaining

plantain-walk, which had been given over to the labourers in full bearing some years ago for their own use and benefit; that about July or August last year the stipendiary magistrate having received information from the director of the plantation that the land in question would be required for cows, gave the labourers notice to that effect, and at the same time pointed out a spot of land allotted to them in its stead, to which no objection or remonstrance was made at the time: the land, notwithstanding, continued to be partially cultivated up to the 22nd ultimo, when the manager, finding other means unavailing, adopted the expedient of having his oxen and cows driven into the grounds, whereupon the labourers appealed to the stipendiary magistrate, through whose interference a further indulgence of time was granted to enable them to reap the crop on the ground, with which arrangement they were thankfully satisfied.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Ware's record contains one case; a complaint preferred by a journeyman carpenter against his employer, a builder, for the recovery of wages to the amount of 64 dollars 33 cents.; judgment given in favour of complainant, with four dollars compensation for time lost in substantiating his claim.

Mr. (Acting) Stipendiary Justice Sandiford's record of complaints for the Georgetown district exhibits 51 cases, of which 47 are disputed wages accounts between journeymen tradesmen, domestic servants, porters, boatmen, &c., and their respective employers; 14 of which were dismissed; and in 33, awards made according to the amounts appearing to be due upon an investigation of the contested claims. Of the remaining four cases, one was a complaint preferred by a cabinet-maker against his apprentice boy, accusing him of negligence in the performance of his work, which was discharged with reprimand; two were complaints preferred by apprentice boys against their masters for assaults, in one of which the accused was fined five dollars, and in the other the case was dismissed. The last case is an assault and counter-assault between two labourers, which was referred for adjudication to the inferior criminal court.

Respectfully submitted by

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Secretary and Stipendiary
Magistrate of British Guiana.

(No. 57.)

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, 22nd May, 1841.

IN addition to my previous letters to Mr. Ouseley, I have been induced to address two other letters to him, of which I have the honour to forward copies.

No. 8.

The first, marked No. 3, was written in consequence of a letter addressed to Mr. Young by an experienced navigator, at present a merchant in Georgetown, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. It contains such good reasons for the length of voyage and sickness of the captured slaves from Rio, and such valuable recommendations with regard to the comfort of the Africans who may hereafter be transferred here, that I considered it of importance that Mr. Ouseley should be cognisant of its contents; and he has full authority to adopt all the suggestions therein offered.

My second letter, marked "private," is to relieve Mr. Ouseley from all trouble beyond the mere duties of his office. They are respectfully submitted for your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 3.)

Enclosure in No. 8.

Sir,

Government House, Demerara, May 22, 1841.

I BEG to enclose a letter from a ship-master in this colony, addressed to the Government Secretary.

Encl. in No. 8.

My motive for troubling you with it, is that it contains probable reasons for supposing that voyages from Rio to this port may be made in sailing vessels in a considerably shorter period than was occupied in the passage of the Portuguese brig Dous de Fevereiro. The suggestions for the additional comfort and preservation of health of the Africans are important, and may be adopted without limit at your discretion.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

G. W. Ouseley, Esq.,
&c. &c.

(True Copy.)

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

BRITISH GUIANA Sir,

Demerara, May 19, 1841.

SEVERAL conversations with Mr. Johnston, who came in charge of the slaves now in Berbice, leads me to think that I can account for the very long passage of that vessel from Rio Janeiro to British Guiana; which, together with the suggestions on the subject, may obviate any objections to the conveyance of liberated Africans to this country in sailing vessels. The very great importance of this subject will, I hope, be admitted as an excuse for my addressing you. The slaver is a large vessel, I understand about 280 tons; she is as square rigged and as raunt, that is to say, the yards are as wide and her masts are as high, as those of a man-of-war. A merchant vessel of her tonnage, with very reduced masts and yards, would carry about 18 hands, often more, when making an ordinary voyage; if carrying a large number of passengers, extra hands would be provided to cook for and attend to them. The slaver in question, though rigged as before stated, had only nine hands to navigate her from Rio to Berbice; these few had to cook and distribute provisions, hoist up and serve out water, clean up the decks after and among the negroes; to attend to the making, shortening, and trimming sails, and all the numerous other duties only known to nautical men, which it is absolutely necessary to attend to at sea; double the number would have been barely sufficient to perform these efficiently. Very little assistance indeed can be obtained from the African passengers, and it is well to state the fact at once, that men-of-war in that station cannot on any future occasion spare more men than on the present. Mr. Johnston appears very properly to have attended as a primary duty to the calls of humanity, by seeing the negroes regularly supplied with food, and to the cleanliness of the ship, in which their lives so much depended. It was out of the power of man under such circumstances to carry such sail, and attend to the other duties in such a way, as to give the ship a chance of a fair passage. When captured, the slaves were in a perfect state of nudity. Mr. Johnston very humanely applied for and obtained matts for them to lie on, and a rug each as a covering, though the captors thought these and other expenses would be deducted from their prize money. In the Brazils the unfortunate African is usually fed on farine, that is to say cassava flour; this is mixed with water and given them in its raw state; a sufficient quantity of this with jerked beef was laid in and regularly supplied to the negroes; rice could not be prepared for them, the prize being short of fire wood to cook it: with such food it cannot excite surprise that dysentery and scurvy carried off so many. The foregoing remarks, I respectfully submit, clearly account for the slaver's long passage, and the mortality among her passengers, evils, I trust, easily remedied in future. I would appoint, with the full approbation of the British minister in Brazil, some respectable mercantile firm at Rio to act as agents for this colony, empower them to charter vessels as passengers offered; such vessels should be fitted up with berths according to the Passengers' Act; they should engage an extra number of hands, whose special duty it should be to cook for, attend to, and watch over the comforts of the passengers; and it might be advantageous for one or more of the negroes lately arrived to return to Brazil; they could describe the country, treatment, &c., to their fellows, and act as interpreters. On the subject of food, in addition to the usual ship's fare, I would lay in plantains, yams, rice, oranges, &c., with a large supply of lime juice, vinegar, and also fumigating materials; a small supply of poultry and preserved meats might be judiciously added for the sick. I would provide a sufficient number of beds, say Osnaburg cases, stuffed with dry plantain leaves, such as are used in our hospitals (and cost little); also one blanket or rug, and two robes made of Osnaburg or coarse duck for each, one of the latter should be washed weekly. If a medical man could not be procured, I would at least have a well-stocked medicine chest, such as there is on board each large British merchant vessel, with proper instructions. Above all things I would insist on an unusually large supply of water. These and such other proper preparations duly and diligently made, I feel a confident hope that in place of losing many on the passage from Rio, these victims of slavery would land in this colony in rude health, and speedily appreciate the blessings enjoyed by their fellow freemen, the happy peasantry of British Guiana.

Hon. H. E. F. Young,
&c. &c.

(True Copy.)

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JOHN TAGGART.

(Private.)

Sir,

Demerara, May 22, 1841.

In reference to my public letters which will be conveyed to you by the Venezuela, it has struck me as likely to occasion you much more trouble than ought to be imposed on you, yet having but yourself to apply to in favour of this colony, it was necessary in the first instance to assume, that from you would emanate all preliminary instructions relative to hire of vessels and arrangements necessary for the voyage, and transfer of Africans to this province. It is by no means the wish of the colonists to lay such a burthen on you, and therefore I beg you to name any confidential person who will carry into effect your instructions as agent, whose expenses will be paid as before mentioned; or if you think fit, I will send you a blank commission from hence, to be filled up with the name of the person you may choose to appoint, and a reasonable annual salary will be granted to him.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

HENRY LIGHT, Governor, British Guiana.

W. B. Ouseley, Esq.,
&c. &c.

(True Copy.)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

(No. 59.)

No. 9.

BRITISH GUIANA

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, 25th May, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the merchant vessel Superior, hired by gentlemen connected with British Guiana in England, to proceed to Sierra Leone, for the purpose of procuring labourers for British Guiana, arrived here yesterday, 24th inst., bringing 200 effective Africans, most of them speaking English; the number first embarked, not diminished by a voyage of 23 days; only 35 women followed their husbands, the remainder prudently determining to wait till it was found that the change was beneficial.

No. 9.

The vessel was in charge of Lieutenant Kingston, Royal Navy; and, by his judicious treatment, it appears no sickness had arisen amongst the passengers.

Lieutenant Kingston brought me a Despatch from Mr. Carr, the acting governor in the room of Sir John Jeremie, whose lamented death he announced. He stated that he had appointed a Captain Taylor, of one of the regiments in garrison, to be emigration agent, and has raised the spirits of the colonists here by his disposition to favour emigration from Sierra Leone if it be proved of advantage to the inhabitants of that settlement.

The vessel sent from hence with despatches to the Governor of Sierra Leone, did not remain there long enough to enable the previous formalities to pass for the departure of emigrants, and therefore proceeded to Madeira, whence she is expected to bring many Portuguese ready to emigrate to this colony.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

HENRY LIGHT.

(No. 60.)

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, 1st June, 1841.

I TAKE advantage of a sailing vessel which leaves this to day for England, to forward to your Lordship an account of my subsequent arrangements with regard to the emigrants from Sierra Leone, whose arrival I announced in Despatch No. 59, date May 25th.

No. 10.

I had the honour of stating that the proportion of women was not in accordance with the ordinance; the men wishing to ascertain the nature of the country before they brought their wives and families.

It appears that the agents of Trinidad and Jamaica circulated reports of this colony, which were believed by many who had put down their names for emigration, afterwards withdrawn, from suspicions being excited unfavourable to British Guiana. I can scarcely credit that the principals were guilty of wilful falsehood, but it was believed that snow, ice, and pestilence would destroy those who came here; and this ended by the embarkation of half a dozen men from the different villages in the neighbourhood of the chief town of Sierra Leone who agreed to embark, with the emigrants, on condition of being conveyed back, to give their friends a true account of British Guiana.

The anxiety to obtain the service of the emigrants by the proprietors here, and the attempts made to induce the choice of one estate more than another, rendered it necessary for me to guard against the first location being on spots either unhealthy or not in the immediate vicinity of the stipendiary magistrates.

I therefore addressed a minute to the members of the Court of Policy, whom I had allowed provisionally as a committee on affairs connected with emigration, and a selection of the most healthy estates was cheerfully acquiesced in and sent to me; from these I chose, those named in document No. 2.

No. 1.

No. 2.

I went the same day on board the emigrant ship, accompanied by the agent-general, and assembling the emigrants, addressed myself to the headmen, and desired the agent-general to read to them the recommendation of the locations named, stating, at the same time, that they were free to choose for themselves, and that they need not stay one hour on any estate, if on reaching it, they chose to go elsewhere. I directed that they should choose their own companions and settle amongst themselves who would go together. I told them that the stipendiary magistrates would take care they should be properly protected against ill treatment, and bid them apply immediately for redress, if any were required. I recom-

BRITISH GUIANA

mended them by no means to attempt double wages, or to exert themselves in extra labour, for at least three months after their arrival. There was not the least hesitation to adopt my advice, and the following morning they were disembarked and taken to the different estates as herewith reported.

Amongst the party were 25 kroomen, who were not located on estates; they were disembarked, lodged and boarded for a day or two in the town, when they were soon hired as boatmen under advice of the agent-general, by agents of different estates.

Though separated in squads of 10, 15, and 20, yet the labourers are settled on estates either a short distance of each other, and from the reports of the stipendiary magistrates and the agent-general, are so highly satisfied that they have determined to send for their wives and families.

The Superior, which brought the emigrants from Sierra Leone, has been chartered to return there; she will sail in a day or two.

The agent for Madeira writes that from the reports of the Portuguese emigrants who had returned from hence to that island, with large earnings, here has been a great desire in the labouring population to come here; that he has 2,000 names for embarkation by the first opportunity, and that there is such an overflowing, from abundance of unemployed hands, almost in a state of starvation, that many thousands will flock willingly to such a colony as this, where labour is so well compensated.

I am happy to say that with the exception of five of the Africans of the captured slaver the Dous de Fevereiro, who died after landing, the remainder are in perfect health; they have remained at the charge of the colony for the last three weeks, in the building prepared for them at New Amsterdam, with ample provision for their wants, and full liberty to look about them.

The collector of Her Majesty having taken charge of the prize, I am waiting to have the Africans formally delivered to me. I shall then locate them with the same precautions as have been used for the emigrants from Sierra Leone. When this takes place, I shall submit my arrangements for your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure in No. 10.

No. 1.

MEMORANDUM for the Committee of Emigration.

Encl. in No. 10.

THE consideration which will principally govern my recommendation to the people who have arrived from Sierra Leone to locate themselves will be:—

1st. The healthiness of the estate, and under this head I give a decided preference to the sea coasts of the colony.

2nd. The nearness of the estate to some place of worship according to the form to which the people have been accustomed.

3rd. Regard being had to the accommodation afforded on the estate, it is desirable to distribute the people as extensively as possible over the colony, in order that any vicious or superstitious practices to which they may be addicted may not be perpetuated by their being kept congregated together.

I think 20 a sufficiently large number on any one estate.

Keeping the above consideration in mind, I request the committee to suggest, for my approval, a list of estates which they consider eligible location for me to recommend to the Africans now on board the Superior.

(True Copy.)

(Signed)

HENRY LIGHT.

JAMES HACKETT, Agent-General.

EXTRACT Minute from the proceedings of the Immigration Committee, Tuesday, the 25th. May, 1841.

THE Committee then agreed to recommend to the Governor the following estates as eligible locations for the labourers on board the Superior:—

Plantation Enmore	on the east sea-coast of Demerara.
Plantation Turkeyen,	ditto ditto.

Plantation Lima,	west sea coast of	Essequibo.
Plantation Reliance,	ditto	ditto.
Plantation Land of Plenty,	ditto	ditto.
Plantation Hoff Van Amich,	ditto	ditto.
Plantation Aberdeen,	ditto	ditto.
Plantation Walton Hall	ditto	ditto.

(True Extract.)

JAMES HACKET, Agent General.

No. 2.

Memorandum.

HAVING given my best attention to the Africans now on board the Superior, and after having received the advice of the Emigration Committee, I strongly recommend the labourers to locate themselves on the following estates, and in the following numbers :—

Plantation Enmore,	on the east sea coast of	Demerary	20
Plantation Turkeyen	ditto	ditto	10
Plantation Greenfield	ditto	ditto	15
Plantation Le Resouvenir	ditto	ditto	15
Plantation Helena,	on the east coast of	Demerary	20
Plantation Dochfour	ditto	ditto	10
Plantation Annandale	ditto	ditto	20
Plantation Lima,	west sea coast of	Essequibo	20
Plantation Reliance	ditto	ditto	20
Plantation Land of Plenty,	ditto	ditto	20
Plantation Hoff Van Amich	ditto	ditto	10
Plantation Aberdeen	ditto	ditto	10
Plantation Walton Hall	ditto	ditto	10

The labourers will remain unindentured, make their own bargains for daily, weekly, or monthly work, and after giving the estates above mentioned a fair trial, if dissatisfied, they are of course free agents, and may remove themselves to any part of the colony in which they may think they will be better off.

The Emigration Agent-General is to consider the numbers affixed to the estates merely as guides to him in reference to the proportion of labourers to be placed on the several estates; the absolute number must be determined by the relationship existing between the parties; and where no relationship exists, then by the mutual consent of the parties.

The agent will notify this recommended distribution to the town attorneys of the estates; and if the recommendation be acquiesced in by the labourers, they may at once be landed, housed, and provided for at the residences of the said attorneys, or in such other suitable places of accommodation as they may provide, until an opportunity offers for conveying them into the country.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

25th May, 1841.

(True Copy.)

JAMES HACKETT, Agent-General.

No. 3.

REPORT of the Agent-General for Immigration on the arrival of the ship Superior, from Sierra Leone, with 199 free labourers.

Sir,

Immigration Office, May 29, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report for the information of his Excellency the Governor.

On Monday last, the 24th instant, arrived the ship Superior, 412 tons, from London *via* Sierra Leone, where having remained 24 days, and taken on board 199 free emigrant labourers, reached here after a passage of 25 days, all well.

I immediately proceeded on board the vessel and inspected in person between decks; the accommodations prepared for the passengers; the quality of food and water provided for their use—and examined individually every immigrant on board; and it affords me great satisfaction in the discharge of this part of my duty, to be able to inform his Excellency, that nothing could exceed the cleanliness and good order which everywhere prevailed, and which reflect much credit on Mr. Kingston, the superintendant on board, and Mr. Clarke, the surgeon of the vessel.

The immigrants appeared all in excellent health and spirits, the passage having been performed without any death or casualty, not even (as the doctor reported) a single case of sickness during the time.

In carrying into effect the instructions conveyed to me by his Excellency's memorandum (Copy attached, No. 1. Extract minute attached No. 2), founded upon the recommendation of the Immigration Committee, with reference to the allocation of these people, every consideration and acquiescence have been accorded to their wishes and inclinations.

In no instance have I permitted any separation of families, ties of relationship, or (when made known to me by the parties) even friendship contracted in their own country, to be broken or interfered with. And the more effectually to accomplish this object, so conducive

BRITISH GUIANA to their future contentment and happiness, their relative positions towards each other in their present distribution, have been made as analogous to their former locations at Sierra Leone as possible; so that in most instances the same children will continue to receive instruction together, and the same families to enjoy an unbroken intercourse, and to meet at their respective places of worship on Sundays.

I am sure it will afford his Excellency great satisfaction to know that the kind and impressive manner in which he addressed these people on board the vessel, has inspired them with redoubled confidence, and that they have departed for their respective destinations not only in high spirits, but convinced that his Excellency's recommendation to them to accept of those healthy situations in the first instance where good accommodation had been provided for them, was wholly for their own advantage, and that of their families. Inseparable from this feeling of reliance on his Excellency's word, was that of the obvious consciousness of independence with which they went forward, from the assurances given them; at the same time, that although such was his Excellency's advice regarding their immediate location, yet as they were all free men, unindentured, and at liberty to work where and for whom they pleased, they might quit their locations for any other which they might think more advantageous to them, even on the following day, should they think fit to do so. With regard to the disparity between the sexes, although considerable, as relates to this body of immigrants, being 149 males to 50 females, it is I humbly conceive, in a great measure satisfactorily explained by the people themselves, with whom I have particularly conferred on the subject, and from the reasons adduced by them it can hardly be doubted (should the means continue to be afforded) that such disparity would speedily be amended.

They state in explanation of so many men having come without their wives and families, that they preferred leaving them with their friends at home, rather than hazard the uncertainty and danger of bringing them to a strange country of which they themselves knew nothing but by hearsay. That they wished to be convinced from personal knowledge and observation of this country, that the condition of those dependent on them would be bettered, before they could venture on so decided a step as their actual removal; and that, as the means of reporting to Sierra Leone by the return of their representatives (or head men,) had been promised them, they awaited that opportunity of communicating with their families and friends as to their following them here by coming vessels or not.

This explanation does not apply to the Kroomen, who never do bring their wives from home; there being 23 of this class, the majority of males would consequently be reduced, that number making it only 76.

I have not failed to convey his Excellency's desire, and to impress upon the minds of those gentlemen under whose protection and care these people have been respectively placed, the necessity of rendering them in every way comfortable—preventing over exertion at work, or too much exposure to the sun, &c. And it is but just to say that every assurance of such indulgences have been given.

I fear I have extended this Report beyond what under ordinary circumstances might be considered necessary. The subject, however, I feel to be one of deep importance, and of such interest to all classes of this community, indeed to humanity itself, that any prolixity I may be betrayed into, has been not only from the sympathies which the event has excited, but from a desire to afford his Excellency the fullest information, and to gratify that wish which he has so deeply evinced in the protection and welfare of those people.

I have, &c.,

The Honourable H. E. F. Young,
&c. &c. &c.

JAMES HACKETT, Agent-General.

NOMINAL List of Africans by the Superior from Sierra Leone, and estates upon which they have been located.

West sea coast of Essequibo.

Plantation Lima.

From the district of Wilberforce :—

Thomas Cole.
Mary Cole.
Andrew Cole.
Anna Cole.
John Ross.
Jim Hook.
Betsy Hook.
George Hook.
James John, 1st.
Nancy John.
James John, 2nd.
Sally John.
James Johnstone.
Fanny Johnstone.
James Peter.
Samuel McAulay.
James Carew.

Peter Rose, Esq., Proprietor.

Plantation Reliance.

From the district of Wilberforce :—

Thomas Pirie.
Samuel George.
Moses Nugent.
John Williams.
Charles Bright.
John Kennedy.
Walter Carew.
Nancy Carew.
John Carew.
Sally Carew.
William Miller.
Joseph Johnstone.
Joseph John.
George Wilson.

West Sea Coast of Essequibo.

Plantation Hoff Van Aurich.

James Moore.
Thomas Howard.
Fanny Howard.
Solomon Howard.
Maria Howard.
James Nutt.
John Martin.
David Williams.

Messrs. Murray, Brothers and Co.,
Proprietors.

Plantation Walton Hall.

Joe Davis.
Maria Davis.
James Cole.
Susanna Cole.
Peter Cole.
Samuel Coker.
Nancy Coker.
James Pratt.

Honourable Mrs. Colonel Phipps,
Proprietress.

Plantation Land of Plenty.

From the adjacent districts of Gloster
and Regent-town, Africa :—

Andrew John,	}	Family.
Thomas Jordan,		
Samuel John Jordan,		
John Pratt,	}	Family.
Sarah Pratt,		
Nancy Pratt,		
Thomas Wilson,	}	Family.
Nancy Wilson,		
Sarah Wilson,		
Anna Wilson.	}	Family.
Peter Johnstone,		
Sarah Johnstone,		
Joseph Johnstone,	}	Family.
Peter Johnstone.		
Andrew Canny.		
John Thomas.		
Anna Thomas.		

The Rev. Archdeacon Austin, Proprietor.

Plantation Aberdeen.

From Gloster and Regent-town :—

Pector Doctor,	}	Family.
Anna Doctor,		
Thomas Raffle,		
Mary Raffle,		
John Thompson,		
Nancy Thompson,		
Samuel Thompson,		
James Thompson,		
John Thompson,		
Moses Thompson,		
Joseph Thompson,		
William Roffell.		

Gardiner Austen, Esq., Proprietor.

East Sea Coast of Demerara.

Plantation Le Resouvenir.

From Free Town, Africa :—

Charles Turner.
Joseph May.
Pompey Rutledge.
Margaret Rutledge.
John Hosling.
George Baily.
Thomas Peer.
James Barker.
Thomas Bell.
Thomas Williams.
Walter Grace.

Messrs. M'Imoy and Sandback, Proprietors.

Plantation Helena.

From Freetown :—

John Copley.
Elizabeth Copley.
Patrick Price.
Christian Price.
Samuel McAulay.
James Butchen.
Priscilla Butchen.
Thomas Scott.
James Watt.
John Thomas.
Samuel Williams.
John Thomas.
Thomas Brown.
Thomas Johnstone.
Tom Williams.
Samuel Hamden.

William Fraser, Esq., Proprietor.

Plantation Enmore.

From Freetown, Africa :—

Andrew Pratt,	}	Family.
Mary Pratt,		
Andrew Pratt,		
Elizabeth Pratt,		
Thomas Pratt,		
John Clarke.		
Peggy Clarke.		
William Leigh.		
John Davis.		
William Thomas.		
John Thomas.		
Thomas Coker.		
John Williams.		
Samuel Kibbiss.		
William King.		
Samuel George.		
William Coker.		

Thomas and Henry Porter, Proprietors.

Plantation Greenfield.

From Freetown.

John Bull,	}	Family.
Nancy Bull,		
Thomas Bull.		
Davy John,	}	Family.
Betsy John,		
Phebe John,		
Charles John,		
Fanny John.		
Andrew Peter.		
Charles Butcher.		
George Butcher.		
Jack Long.		
Hannah Long.		

Messrs. Glen and Co., Proprietors.

BRITISH GUIANA

East Sea-coast of Demerara.

Plantation Turkeyen.

From Waterloo District :—

William Young,
 Mary Young,
 Mary Young,
 Anna Young,
 John M'Aulay.
 George Pratt.
 Charles Pratt.
 Peggy Pratt.
 Moses Pratt.
 Andrew Hamilton.
 William Gurner.

Plantation Annandale.

From Goodrich District :—

William Dove,	}	Family.
Phoebe Dove,		
William Dove,		
Thomas Dove,		
Jim Dove,		
Martha Dove,	}	Family.
Andrew Martin.		
William Home.		
William Bull.		
John Moore.		
Nancy Moore.	}	Family.
William Peters.		
John Carroll,		
Judy Carroll,		
Sally Carroll,		
Judy Carroll,	}	Family.
John Stewart, Esq., M.P., Proprietor.		

Plantation Dochfour.

John Day.
 Eliza Day.
 John Williams.
 Thomas Taylor.
 Robert Edwards.

List of Kroomen who preferred not living on any particular Estate.

Kingson.	George Andrews.
Tom Walker.	Tom Nimmey.
Jack Passer.	Tom Freeman.
Big Gum.	Tom Toby.
Peter Jumbo.	John Davis.
Thomas Nimmey.	Sea Breeze.
John Grey.	Tom Lee.
Bottle Beer.	Yellow Will.
Jim George.	Peter Warman.
Salt Water.	Jim Freeman.
Sergeant.	Tom Brown.

The above being principally boatmen, and very intelligent and active people, were all readily engaged to work on board the steamers and droghers belonging to estates at a high rate of wages, none of them receiving less than at the rate of 10 dollars per month, besides houses, food, &c.

Names of Head Men who are to return in the Superior to Sierra Leone to report.

Charles Turner	for	Free Town.
Samuel Young	"	Regent Town.
Thomas Cole	"	Wilberforce.
Charles Pratt	"	Waterloo.
William Home	"	Goodrich.
Thomas Freeman	"	Kroo Town.
JAMES HACKETT, Agent-General.		

(No. 220.)

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Governor LIGHT.

Sir,

Downing-street, July 19, 1841.

No. 11.

I HAVE received your despatches of the 25th May and 1st June, Nos. 59 and 60, reporting the arrival of 200 African labourers from Sierra Leone, and I have to convey to you my approval of the steps which you had taken for insuring their location on such estates as you considered most likely to be conducive to their health and personal comforts.

I rely, however, on the promise that the women, whom you state to have been left behind, until the men could ascertain the nature of the country, should be sent

(No. 66.)

No. 12.

BRITISH GUIANA

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, June 9, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a letter I wrote to the officer administering the government of Sierra Leone, by the Superior, which left this on the 7th instant, chartered to convey emigrants from Sierra Leone to this province.

No. 12.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

I have, &c.
HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure in No. 12.

Sir,

Government House, Demerara, June 6, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch delivered to me by Lieutenant Kingston, of the Superior, on the arrival of that vessel here on the 24th ultimo.

Encl. in No. 1

While regretting the lamented death of Sir John Jeremie, I have to congratulate you on the assumption of a government, which now attracts so much interest at home, and whence from its own progress in civilization yet may arise such new sources of wealth to the mother country, while it will probably contribute much to the prosperity of the West Indies, without interference, I trust, with the welfare of the tribes of Africans, who seek the protection of Great Britain.

It will be satisfactory to your Excellency to know that the emigrants from Sierra Leone, reached this colony in 24 days, and all were in perfect health.

I obtained a list of the most healthy estates in the colony, and went on board the Superior, on the 25th May, with the Agent-general, and having assembled the emigrants, addressed myself to the headmen, and ordered the Agent-general to read my recommendation of the estates to them, stating at the same time that they were fully at liberty to choose for themselves, and to remove immediately from the estates recommended, if they thought right to do so, on arrival there; but I observed to them, that in relying on me, they would escape the possibility of being induced to locate themselves on spots, which perhaps did not offer such advantages as those I recommended.

I named so many, for each estate, in squads of 10, 15, and 20, desiring the emigrants to choose amongst themselves who should go together. I assured them of the protection of the stipendiary magistrates, to whom in all cases for redress they were to apply.

They willingly adopted my recommendation, and were disembarked the following morning, and conveyed in the estates' schooners to their locations.

Having previously obtained a list* from every estate in the colony, of the means of accommodation for labourers each estate possessed, I knew where to place the emigrants, selecting the most healthy spots, carefully avoiding distance from churches, chapels, schools, and magistrates, and at the same time I placed the different squads within such reasonable contiguity of each other, that they might always in the course of four or five hours have communication with each other, or with their friends; begging you to bear in mind that they were pretty nearly divided between the sea-coast of Essequibo county, called the Arabian Coast, and the eastern coast of Demerara, both considered as the healthiest districts in the province.

The reports of the Agent-general and the stipendiary magistrates up to this date, state that the emigrants are highly satisfied, and those who have left their families at Sierra Leone, are desirous of having them here.

The Kroomen, 25 in number, were not included in the locations, but were landed, boarded, and lodged liberally for two days in town, when they were engaged under the recommendation of the Agent-general, as boatmen on different estates, at the rate of 10 and 12 dollars per month, with a daily proportion of salt fish and plantains.

I trust these details will satisfy you that the emigrants are well protected, and may reap largely by the advantages this province offers to industry.

I have to express my perfect approval of Captain Taylor as agent for Sierra Leone, with the salary you have considered necessary. He will communicate with the Agent-general on all subjects connected with emigration, and I shall be happy to support him on every subject connected with his office.

* If I am not too late, I should suggest, it would be premature in Captain Taylor to leave the army entirely, that is, to sell out; for, on the delicate subject of emigration from Africa, though at present permitted; yet, if the sons of Africa can be equally well off in their own quarter of the world, will the emigration from Sierra Leone continue to be the policy of Great Britain?

I understand a heavy charge is made for passports at Sierra Leone; if so, I beg to draw your attention to a despatch I received from Lord John Russell recommending the abolition

* From stipendiary magistrates, not mentioned in original.

BRITISH GUIANA any part of the world, and are in all cases of dispute, as between labourers and employers, entirely under the arbitration of an efficient summary stipendiary jurisprudence, accountable to the executive alone.

His Excellency administering the government of
Sierra Leone: I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

(No. 75.)

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, June 22, 1841.

No. 13.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Coolie returns for the month of May.

Your Lordship will observe that the Coolie returns exhibit a continued state of good health, in that portion of the labouring class; and though the number of sick at Belle Vue is large in proportion to the number, yet the sickness is of a trifling nature.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, (Signed) I have, &c.
&c. &c. &c. HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure in No. 13.

Encl. in No. 13.

MONTHLY REPORT respecting the Hill Coolies in British Guiana, 1st June, 1841.

Location.	Number on Estate.			Absentees.	Number of Days Absent.	Deaths since the last Report. Names and Dates.	Number of Sick on 31st ult., and General State of their Health during last Month.	Particulars and Result of any Complaint preferred in the course of the past Month.
	Men.	Women.	Children.					
Wales . . .	50	2	3	None . .	With the Rev. Mr. Bernan for instruction, from 7th June, 1839.	None . .	Good 22. Colds prevalent; general health good.	None.
Belle Vue . .	56	2	..	Jowhyersing on leave.		None . .		None.
Vriedestein .	22	..	..	None . .	. .	None . .	Very good None "The Coolies have enjoyed very good health during the past month." (Signed) D. BAIRDOS, Medical Practitioner.	None.
Anna Regina .	43	3	6	None . .		None . .		None.
Highbury . .	93	7	10	70 Coolies.	1 day	None . .	6 "General state of health good." (Signed) J. COLLYMORE.	70 Coolies left on 31st ult. and went to town, stating that the manager had reduced their daily allowance of rum. The sheriff explained to them that they were only entitled to the one glass; and giving them a measure as a guide for the future, they left town perfectly satisfied.
Waterloo . .	39	..	..	None . .	. .	None . .	5. Intermittent fever. General health good.	None.

(No. 79.)

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, July 5, 1841.

No. 14.
With letter of
Agent-general.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a return of emigrants that have arrived in this province since the publication of my proclamation, to give effect to the Emigration Ordinance, passed by Sir Henry M'Leod, to date 30th June.

Your Lordship will perceive that from the islands, there is a disproportion of the sexes, which has arisen from the desire of the emigrants to try this colony, previous to bringing their wives and families with them.

The same cause prevented the equalization of the sexes from Sierra Leone, but I have no doubt that both from Sierra Leone and the Islands, of which Barbados is our chief source; the difference will be made up in the ensuing six months.

I have hesitated appointing agents to any of the Islands, except at Nevis, as a place of rendezvous from the neighbouring islands, both British and Foreign, to

avoid the complaints which might be made of undue influence, or tampering with the labourers to induce them to try their fortunes in British Guiana. BRITISH GUIANA

The Agent-general being responsible for the observation of the provisions of the Act of Parliament, relative to emigrant vessels. I have for the present left emigration to the free choice of the Barbadian labourers, although I understand Trinidad has an agent at Barbados; this, however, does not prevent the tide of emigration thence from flowing here: and there are more applicants for passage to this colony, than means afforded for conveying them here.

The influx from Madeira has been considerable, and more are daily expected; and it is a strong proof of the advantages held out to industrious men, that about a fortnight ago, 30 of the original emigrants from Madeira, paid their passage at the rate of 30 dollars each in a vessel of 200 tons, to take them to Madeira, thence to bring back their families and relatives to this colony.

The late introductions from Madeira are of an infinitely superior class than the original class of emigrants, to whose condition I have alluded in former despatches, preparations having been made for their reception, totally neglected three years ago; there is every reason to believe that they will soon acclimatise, and suffer little from sickness.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

I have, &c.

HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure in No. 14.

Sir,

Immigration Office, July 5, 1841.

Encl. in No. 14.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your Excellency's information, the annexed statement of immigrants who have arrived in this colony from the 18th of February to the 30th of June last, being the period during which the ordinance No. 4, intituled, "An Ordinance to Regulate and Encourage Immigration into British Guiana," has been in operation.

From this statement your Excellency will perceive that a gross accession of nearly 1,700 persons, consisting of agricultural labourers, and various other of the working classes, domestics, &c., including children, has been made to the population of the colony in the short space of little more than four months, and that, be it observed, at the commencement of a system not yet matured and but imperfectly organized, from which it appears almost doubtless that the general interests of the colony, so far as they depend on immigration, must soon begin to feel a beneficial effect, and that, should the means be sustained for carrying the project out, a population commensurate to the wants of the colony must at no very distant period be obtained.

The progress of immigration appears to go on steadily increasing in a proportionate ratio, as the advantages of the country, and the encouragement and protection given to the labourer and his family, become more generally known; and it is with great satisfaction I am enabled to acquaint your Excellency that no circumstance has as yet occurred, in violation of the law, or otherwise, to check the advancement of those favourable prospects; nor which, from disregard to or contravention of the provisions of the ordinance have rendered any appeal to your Excellency or the constituted authorities necessary.

(The case of the American schooner Rienzi, of which your Excellency is already aware, and which has been disposed of by a court of justice, being the only exception.)

In no instance has any death taken place or sickness occurred during the passage of any immigrant vessel hither, neither has there been occasion, on their arrival, to find fault with or condemn the accommodations or provisions on board for the use of the emigrants, who on landing appeared almost invariably in good spirits, and well pleased with their reception and the appearance of the country.

This expression of satisfaction has been particularly remarkable with regard to the Portuguese emigrants from Madeira, who generally commence dancing and singing the moment the vessels come to anchor, and on leaving the ship not unfrequently caress and embrace the sailors, in token of gratitude for having brought them safely; and on their arrival at the dépôt on plantation Poaderayen they begin to tune their guitars, and a general dance follows, which they keep up for hours.

These people have been all comfortably located, the greater portion of them in the vicinity of Georgetown; Mr. James, the opulent proprietor of plantation Houston, having taken the whole party of one of the last vessels, amounting to 81, including women and children, several of whom I have since seen, and they expressed themselves contented and happy in their situations.

With regard to the disparity which appears between the sexes of immigrants from the West India Islands, I have only again, in explanation to your Excellency, respectfully to repeat what a large portion of the people themselves continue to tell me, which is, that they want to see the country, and to ascertain the positive advantages of settling in it, before they incur the risk and inconvenience of bringing over their wives and families; that the distance being so short and the opportunities of communication so frequent, they can always furnish the means of support to their families from hence during their separation, and send for them afterwards when they feel that they can do so with advantage. Of the truth of this there appears but

BRITISH GUIANA little reason to doubt, for several instances have recently occurred in confirmation of it, where women with their families have arrived, who were sent for by their husbands here; and also from the increasing applications at this office from men who were desirous of returning to the islands to bring their families over.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JAMES HACKETT,
Agent-General for Immigration.

His Excellency Henry Light,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on IMMIGRATION into the Colony of British Guiana from the 18th of February to the 13th June, being the period during which the Ordinance No. 4, "To regulate and encourage Immigration into British Guiana," has been in operation.

Date of Arrival.	Places from whence Immigrants have come.																			
	Antigua.		Anguilla.		Barbados.		Dominica.		St. Barts.		St. Kitts.		Nevis.		Rio de Janeiro.		Sierra Leone.		Madeira.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1841.																				
Feb. 20	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 22	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 28	21	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
March 1	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 10	17	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 19	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 19	17	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
April 1	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 7	9	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 7	13	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 8	11	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 13 . .	12	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 19	39	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 22	11	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 22	32	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
May 7	22	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 8	35	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 11	96	64	..	..	..	..
" 20	14	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 24	53	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	149	50	..	..
" 28	26	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	5
June 4	31	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 6	39	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 5	37	28
" 10	11	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 15	62	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 15	29	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 16	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 19	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 22	54	56
" 23 . .	20	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 25	10	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 26	42	39
" 26	32	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 27	31	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44	42
" 27
	32	12	54	48	518	224	6	..	..	..	27	20	..	..	96	64	149	50	193	170

SUMMARY.

From the West India Islands . .	941	including	161	Children under 14 years of age.
" Madeira	363	" 142	" "	"
" Sierra Leone	199	" 40	" "	"
" Rio de Janeiro	160	" 82	" "	"
Total	1,663	" 425	" "	"
Total number of Males	1,075			
" Females	588			
Total	1,663			

JAMES HACKETT, Agent-General for Immigration.

(No. 236.)

No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Governor LIGHT.

Sir,

Downing-street, August 22, 1841.

No. 15.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 79, of the 5th July, enclosing a report from the Agent-General for Immigration at British Guiana, with a

return of emigrants who had arrived in the colony since the publication of your proclamation to give effect to the emigration ordinance passed by Sir Henry M'Leod. BRITISH GUIANA

The statements contained in these documents are highly satisfactory, excepting so far as relates to the disproportion of the sexes.

You represent this disproportion to have arisen from the desire of the emigrants to try the colony previous to bringing their wives and families with them.

If the emigrants remain in the colony; I expect their families to join them, and I am glad to learn from your Despatch that a considerable number of the original emigrants from Madeira had embarked for that island to bring back their families and relatives to British Guiana.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

(No. 80.)

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, July 6, 1841.

IN the letter of the Agent-General, attached to the return of emigrants to this province, allusion is made to the case of the American schooner Rienzi. This was the first vessel sent from Madeira with emigrants, the captain and crew of five men, Americans, of the United States.

No. 16.

Despatch No. 79.

It appeared that a few days after the vessel sailed from Madeira, a dog, belonging to the American captain, bit one of the Portuguese; a dispute arose; high words, in language neither party understood, on the opposing sides of the dispute followed; the gesticulations of the Portuguese were construed by the fears of the captain into threats against his crew and self; the dog was thrown overboard in the night; fresh dispute arose, and additional fear was excited.

The consequence was that the captain took advantage during the night of the Portuguese being below to batten them down; allowed only two at a time to come on deck, and persisted in this limitation for the remainder of the passage, 17 or 18 days. Luckily, no evil consequences ensued; the emigrants all arrived in good health, though they had suffered much inconvenience from their confinement.

A very long investigation took place; the case was brought before the inferior criminal court in Georgetown, presided over by the High Sheriff. The captain was sentenced to pay a fine of 100 dollars, and to 14 days' imprisonment in Georgetown gaol. The fine was paid, and the imprisonment endured.

This, with the law expenses, the loss of time in port at the expense of 40 or 50 dollars per day, as set forth in a petition to me, praying for remission of part of the imprisonment, which was rejected, has been a tolerably severe lesson against imprudent fears. The Portuguese were satisfied, and I hope public justice has been vindicated.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 82.)

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, July 15, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the return of produce shipped from Georgetown and New Amsterdam during the April quarter ending July 5th.

No. 17.

There is still a diminution as compared with 1840, but there is no reason to believe that the crop for this year will be inferior to that of the last.

The planters have paid more attention to the cultivation than during last year, the object being then to hurry on the manufacture of sugar, in order to benefit by the high prices. It has been deprecated by prudent men, and the

BRITISH GUIANA extreme rise in price of sugar, almost to double what it was in 1838, has encouraged a spirit of speculation on its continuance, for which many of the planters are likely to suffer.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 17.

Encl. in No. 17. BRITISH GUIANA.—COLONIAL PRODUCE shipped from this Colony in the Second Quarter of 1841, as compared with the Quantity of the Corresponding Quarter of 1840.

	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.	Coffee.	Cotton.
	Hogsheads.	Puncheons.	Casks.	Pounds.	Bales.
Demerara, 2nd Quarter, 1840 . .	6,266	2,883	2,803	587,700	70
Berbice, „ . .	1,125	460	69	466,800	19
	7,391	3,343	2,872	1,054,500	89
Demerara, 2nd Quarter, 1841 . .	5,480	1,775	2,522	96,600	79
Berbice, „ . .	1,101	497	399	62,850	..
	6,581	2,272	2,921	159,450	79
Decrease	810	1,071	..	895,050	10
Increase . . . .	..	..	549	..	..

Custom-House, Georgetown, Demarara,
7th July, 1841.

C. ROBINSON, Collector.

(No. 84.)

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, July 15, 1841.

No. 18.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the letter from the officers appointed to distribute and locate the captured Africans at Berbice to the Government Secretary, giving an account of their proceedings, according to instructions received.

I considered that it would be more for the advantage of the children to place them on the estates with their families or fellow-captives, than to apprentice them in the town with individuals who, having an isolated power over the services of those apprenticed, would be less liable to supervision of the magistrate; and indeed it appears that no married persons would undertake to receive them. With a subsequent Despatch your Lordship will receive a report from Mr. Wolseley of the locations, and of the advantages those locations present.

I have directed a separate monthly report to be given by the magistrates of the condition of these Africans, which will be forwarded with the monthly returns.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 18.

Sir,

New Amsterdam, Berbice, July 1, 1841.

Encl. in No. 18.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, communicating His Excellency's commands that we should receive from the Custom House Department the captured Africans at Plantation Overwinning, and immediately procure suitable and advantageous employment for them.

been located in families and that the unmarried and children made choice of the family they wished to accompany. BRITISH GUIANA

The annexed return exhibits the different plantations where they are located, each of which has a school and a church or chapel in its immediate neighbourhood; the situations are healthy and the accommodations for them very good.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

CHARLES R. WHINFIELD, Sheriff.
W. B. WOLSELEY, Circuit Stipendiary Magistrate.
G. G. LOWENFELD, Emigration Agent.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
&c. &c. &c.

RETURN of Captured Africans located in Berbice on Monday, 28th June, 1841.

Plantations.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total on each.
Providence.	7	5	5	6	23
Everton	6	5	5	4	20
Friends.	4	3	6	9	22
Blairmount	7	5	3	6	21
Balthyock	5	3	6	4	18
Rose Hall	4	2	10	4	20
Cane Fields	6	..	15	..	21
	39	23	50	33	145

Located 145
In hospital 6
Died since arrival 9

(A true Copy.)

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

(No. 241.)

No. 19.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Governor LIGHT.

Sir,

Downing-street, August 30, 1841.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 84, of the 15th July, respecting the distribution and location of certain captured Africans at Berbice, and I have to signify to you my approval of the arrangements which you authorized for their disposal.

No. 19.

I have, &c.

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

(No. 88.)

No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, July 21, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of letter from the sheriff of Berbice and of the medical attendant of the Hospital at New Amsterdam relative to the condition of the captured Africans from the time of their disembarkation to the date of distribution.

No. 20.

It appears by the report of the medical attendant that the deaths that have occurred, were entirely attributable to the previous sufferings of these unfortunate beings, and when it is known that upwards of 500 Africans had been stowed away in the captured slaver, which was crowded, when only freighted with 180, the number sent from Rio de Janeiro; it is surprising that the health of the survivors has been so easily re-established.

I have it from the authority of Mr. Glascott, who returned from the Barema a day or two ago, and who served in the navy on the coast of Africa for some time, cruising against slave-ships, that the tonnage of the Dous de Fevereira could only have held its original number of slaves, by

F

BRITISH GUIANA stowing them three deep, in a sitting posture, each slave locked between the legs and thighs of those in the hinder ranks.

Of the original number embarked on the coast of Africa, 120 died on the passage to Rio, 20 on the voyage to British Guiana, 6 within 36 hours of their landing at New Amsterdam, and 4 since that time.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, (Signed) HENRY LIGHT.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 20.

Sir,

Office of the Sheriff, Berbice, July 18, 1841.

Encl. in No. 20.

I HAVE the honour to forward for the information of his Excellency the Governor, a report from Dr. Beresford on the state of the captured Africans who were admitted into the general asylum and hospital of this county. The case remaining therein at the date of this Report is since dead, making the total number of deaths 10, and but six of these, it will be observed, had been under any medical treatment whatever. I had fully expected, from the general wretched state of these people when they were landed from the Dous de Feveira, that at least 30 would have died; and I feel confident that nothing but the constant attention and zeal on the part of Dr. Beresford could have rendered the mortality so small; I have therefore much satisfaction in bringing his name prominently to the notice of his Excellency.

I have, &c.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young, (Signed) CHARLES R. WHINFIELD, Sheriff.
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)
H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

Sir,

New Amsterdam, Berbice, July 14, 1841.

IN accordance with your request, I beg leave to submit for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the following statement relative to the captured Africans lately admitted to hospital at Berbice, and placed under my charge. The original number of these was 31, four of whom in a state of extreme sickness and debility, died within 36 hours of being landed, 17 of the above number it became necessary to place under medical treatment, 14 of them, (with three more subsequently admitted), and of whom five died, for dropsy both general and local, one, (the only one now remaining in hospital on account of her miserable helpless condition) for dysentery, and two others for severe chest affection, one case accompanied with extreme debility and scurvy. The remaining 14 of those first admitted, were retained in the hospital on account of general debility with scorbutic tendency, (a prevailing feature in most of the dropsical cases), but having been properly cured, soon convalesced, and were on 24th May, 10 days after admission, discharged to the general dépôt at Plantation Overwinning, whence, as occasion required, the sick were sent to our hospital in town. As many as 34 or 35 were thus disposed of, independent of the 31 first admitted, 3, as stated above, on account of dropsy, 6 of fever, 3 of pleurisy, 1 of inflammation of the lungs, 1 of convulsions, 1 of diabetes, 3 of diarrhoea, 1 of inflammation with ulcer of the eye, 1 of rheumatism, 3 of ear-ache, 9 of scabies, (itch,) and several others on account of no perceptible disease; of the above none suffered, the cases of death being solely confined to those first admissions labouring under dropsy, the post mortem appearances of whose bodies were (as was the treatment of the sick, diet, extras, and results), noted in a journal kept for that and other purposes, connected with these unfortunate creatures, who I am happy to report received every attention at the hands of those appointed to superintend them and to afford them relief.

On reviewing the symptoms during life and the appearances after death of those cases already alluded to, it is a matter of astonishment that with so great an extent of disease as was exhibited, life could have been prolonged to the period it was. Each individual examined, (and eight out of nine were, the one omitted being from heavy pressure of business at the time,) presented the same general appearances of disease as the preceding ones, and these were such as to have entirely and utterly precluded the possibility of recovery. In every instance there were large collections of fluid in the chest and abdomen, in the first more particularly where every cavity was filled to repletion, many of the internal organs having undergone such complete change and disorganisation, as to have been with difficulty recognised. In some a lung was collapsed, actually deficient indeed, in others one or both lungs were so diseased as to become at length insufficient for the purposes of respiration, besides this there existed in both cavities appearances of former inflammatory action, adequate of itself to the destruction of life. The heart was invariably surrounded with a large quantity of fluid, and the stomach was in almost every instance so reduced in size being one-third and one-fourth of its usual dimensions, as to evince pretty clearly the degree of starvation the unfortunate creatures must at an early period have endured.

I am sensible, Sir, of having extended this my report far beyond the limits of moderation or beyond what may have been expected, but I consider myself justified in so doing, in order that mis-statements founded on the mortality herein alluded to, injurious to the scheme of immigration to British Guiana now, and as regards the present instance so happily and auspiciously commenced, may not go abroad. In no case did an African die from any malady contracted here; it was the previous state of disease, in several instances beyond the possibility of relief, that caused death. Even in such cases as recovered, the resistance to

medicines generally, and in the most powerful doses, such as under ordinary circumstances might have produced unpleasant results, proved the very torpid and disordered state of the system, which however, when recruited by proper diet and attention to their many necessities, responded readily to the remedies subsequently administered. BRITISH GUIANA

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN B. BERESFORD,
Surgeon to the General Asylum and Hospital, Berbice.

His Honour C. R. Whinfield,
Sheriff.
(A true Copy.)
H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

(No. 3.)

No. 21.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Governor LIGHT.

Sir, Downing-street, September 9, 1841.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 88, of the 21st July, transmitting copies of letters from the sheriff of Berbice and the medical attendant of the hospital at New Amsterdam, relative to the condition of certain captured Africans who had recently arrived in the colony. No. 21.

I can have no doubt of the correctness of your opinion, that the mortality which occurred amongst the Africans, after their arrival, is entirely attributable, as Dr. Beresford represents, to the dreadful sufferings which they had experienced on board the captured vessel, and not to any want of attention in Guiana.

On the contrary, the rescued slaves appear to have been treated by Dr. Beresford with great care, and on the whole with very satisfactory results.

I am glad to find that those most competent to judge of his proceedings have signified their approbation of his skill and attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STANLEY.

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

(No. 91.)

No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, July 21, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the returns of the stipendiary magistrates for the month of June, the summary of the Coolie returns for the same month, and Mr. Wolseley's summary. These returns require no observations on my part, beyond noticing the trifling number of cases for adjudication. No. 22.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH GUIANA

Enclosure 1, in No. 22.

Encl. 1, in No. 22.

MONTHLY REPORT respecting the Hill Coolies in British Guiana on 1st July, 1841.

Number on Estate.			Absentees.	Number of Days Absent.	Deaths since last Report.	Number Sick, and General State of Health.	Particulars and Result of any Complaint preferred.
Men.	Women.	Children.					
56	2	..	One at school.	1½ year.	. .	<i>Bellevue.</i> 11 with colds. General health good.	None.
49	2	3	. .	..	Gorind 16th June.	<i>Wales.</i> 11 with colds. General health good.	None.
22	..	..	. .	..	. .	<i>Frederick.</i> 7 slight indispositions. General health good.	None.
43	3	6	. .	..	. .	<i>Anna Regina.</i> 9 coughs and colds prevalent.	None.
93	7	10	. .	..	. .	<i>Highbury.</i> 10 sores, 2 itch; 4 slight intermittent fever. General state of health good.	None.
40	..	..	. .	..	. .	<i>Waterloo.</i> 6 cases of slight intermittent fever. General health good.	None.

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

Enclosure 2, in No. 22.

Encl. 2, in No. 22.

AN Epitome of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints for June, 1841.

Magistrates.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Offences.	How disposed of.
J. Macleod . . .	0	. . . . .	. . . . .
T. Coleman . . .	0	. . . . .	. . . . .
C. H. Strutt . . .	0	. . . . .	. . . . .
A. van R. de Groot	0	. . . . .	. . . . .
W. J. Brittain . .	0	. . . . .	. . . . .
C. R. Whinfield . .	0	. . . . .	. . . . .
A. M. Lyons . . .	1	Complaint preferred by a labourer against a task-gang manager for the recovery of wages.	Amicably settled by payment of the amount claimed.
J. A. Allen . . .	4	1 complaint preferred by four labourers, charging their manager with having withheld a day's wages from them.	Payment ordered; reason for withholding not being considered sufficient.
		1 complaint preferred by man and wife, labourers, charging the manager with unlawful ejectment, consequent injury to sundry effects, and non-payment of wages.	Wages ordered to be forthwith paid; no further proceedings ensued, complainant not appearing to prosecute.
		1 complaint by a journeyman against a master carpenter to recover wages.	Amicably settled.
		1 simply a difference between the manager of an estate and a labourer resident thereon, but giving his labour to an adjoining property.	Amicably settled.
K. Heyland . . .	3	1 complaint preferred by the manager of an estate against an indentured Hill Coolie, charging him with four days' absence.	Adjudged to forfeit 8 days' wages, in consequence of drunkenness having been the cause of absence.
		1 complaint by labourer against manager to recover payment of wages.	Payment made immediately; non-payment partly ascribed to negligence of overseer.
		1 complaint by washerwoman against employer for the recovery of wages.	Payment ordered, with 1 dollar additional for lost time in preferring complaint.

An Epitome of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records—continued.

BRITISH GUIANA

Magistrates.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Offences.	How disposed of.
J. O. L. Mure . .	2	2 complaints preferred by journeymen carpenters, against master carpenters to recover wages.	Payments ordered, but only obtained on the issue of levy warrants.
D. Maclellan . .	8	4 complaints preferred by journeymen carpenters against master carpenters to recover wages.	Adjusted according to proofs adduced.
		2 complaints preferred by labourers against managers for recovery of wages.	One dismissed. One judgment for the amount claimed.
		1 complaint preferred by a labourer against a manager for destruction of property.	Disproved and dismissed.
		1 complaint by a girl against an old lady who had brought her up from infancy, claiming wages since August, 1838.	Dismissed.
W. H. Ware . .	2	1 complaint by a labourer against a task-gang manager for the recovery of wages.	Payment ordered and made.
		1 complaint by manager against two Hill Coolies, charging them with four days' absence.	Adjudged to pay 1 dollar each, their absence having been occasioned by drunkenness.
M. L. Fowler . .	2	1 complaint preferred by a boat-builder against a labourer to obtain payment for a canoe.	Abatement agreed upon, and payment made.
		1 complaint preferred by a carpenter against a storekeeper to obtain payment of wages.	Payment ordered and made.
W. J. Sandiford, (Georgetown district.)	71	Disputed wages accounts and other differences, principally between town tradesmen, their journeymen or servants.	Sixteen dismissed; the remainder settled variously, according to the evidence.

SUMMARY of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints for the month of June, 1841.

Messrs. M-Leod, Coleman, Strutt, De Groot, Brittain and Whinfield report, that they had no case for adjudication between master and servant during the month of June.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Lyon's Record contains one case; a complaint preferred by a labourer against a task-gang manager, for the recovery of wages, which was amicably adjusted by payment of the amount claimed.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Allen's Record contains four cases, the first of which comprises four complainants, who charge their manager with having withheld one day's wages from them, in consequence of their having left the boiling-house one evening at 7 o'clock without, as had hitherto been customary, boiling off the whole of the liquor. The wages were ordered to be paid.

The next case is a complaint preferred by two labourers, man and wife, against the manager of an estate, charging him with unlawfully ejecting them from the dwelling-house in which they had been in the habit of residing, whereby certain articles of wearing apparel were declared to have been lost, and for non-payment of wages. It was proved that the complainants had themselves secreted their effects, with the view of obtaining compensation for them. The wages were ordered to be paid, and the principal complainant not thinking proper to await its final adjudication, the case was dismissed. The third case is a complaint preferred by a journeyman carpenter against a master carpenter for a recovery of wages, which was "amicably settled" on payment of six dollars to complainant. The last case noted in this Record, is merely a difference between a labourer and the manager of the property on which he resided, and on which he had been accustomed to work, arising from a threat of ejection, unless he gave his labour to the estate that furnished him with a house; this was likewise readily and amicably adjusted.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Heyland's Record, contains three cases; first a complaint preferred by the manager of an estate against an indentured Hill Coolie labourer, charging him with four days absence from work, contrary to the terms of his contract of service. The evidence proved drunkenness to be the cause of the absence of the accused, and he was adjudged to forfeit eight days' wages. The next is a complaint preferred by a plantation labourer against his manager for the recovery of wages. It appeared in evidence that the non-payment had partly arisen from the negligence of the overseer, and the claim was immediately satisfied. The last case is a complaint preferred by a washerwoman against her employer to obtain payment of wages which was likewise immediately settled, complainant receiving one dollar compensation for the time she had lost in preferring and proving her complaint.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Mure's Record contains two cases of complaints preferred by journeymen carpenters against master carpenters for the recovery of wages. Payment in the first instance ordered to be made within two days, which not being complied with, a levy was threatened, and the sentence thereby carried into effect.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Maclellan's Record contains eight cases, of which four are com-

BRITISH GUIANA — complaints preferred by journeymen carpenters against master carpenters for the recovery of wages, in each of which awards were made according to the amounts appearing to be due upon an adjustment of the accounts. Three others were complaints preferred by plantation labourers against their managers, of which two were for the recovery of wages, one of which was dismissed, and in the other judgment given in favour of the complainant; and the third was a charge of destruction of property which was disproved and dismissed. The remaining case was a complaint preferred at the instigation of some malicious person against a poor old widow lady, by a girl who had been brought up and instructed by her from infancy to the present time, claiming wages as a servant—dismissed.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Ware's Record contains two cases. First a complaint by a labourer against a task-gang manager, for the recovery of wages to the amount of 22 dollars; payment ordered and made, with 1 dollar and 33 cents compensation for time lost in preferring his complaint. The other case is a charge against two Hill Coolie labourers for four days' absence from their master's service in violation of their indentures. It was proved that their absence had been occasioned by intoxication, and they were each sentenced to pay a penalty of one dollar.

Mr. Acting Stipendiary Justice Fowler's Record contains two cases; the first is a complaint preferred by a boat-builder against a plantation labourer, to recover payment for a canoe which he had built and delivered to the accused. It having been proved that the dimensions were not exactly what had been agreed upon between the parties, a suitable deduction was made from the sum claimed, and the balance ordered to be paid. The other was a complaint preferred by a carpenter against the keeper of a store, to recover payment for work performed; payment ordered and made.

Mr. Acting Stipendiary J. Sandiford's Record for the Georgetown district, contains 71 cases of disputed wages accounts, and other trifling differences arising principally between town tradesmen their journeymen and servants, of which 16 were dismissed, and the others variously adjusted according to the evidence. These cases cannot, however, be considered as showing a want of harmony between masters and servants in the generally accepted sense in which those terms are understood. With the planter and plantation labourer the best possible understanding prevails.

Respectfully submitted by

W. B. WOLSELEY,

Circuit Stipendiary Magistrate British Guiana.

(No. 100.)

No. 23.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, August 17, 1841.

No. 23.

THE emigrants who have hitherto arrived in British Guiana, have been landed at the port of Georgetown in Demerara, and have almost exclusively located themselves in this and the county Essequibo.

The inhabitants of the county Berbice have forwarded to me the accompanying petition, setting forth a claim, to be afforded the opportunity in Berbice of having a number of the emigrants proportionate to the amount of taxation which that county contributes for emigration purposes.

It has not appeared to me possible to give the petitioners any other answer than that which by my directions was afforded to them by the Government secretary, and to which practical effect will be given as far as may be, by the instructions issued by the agent-general of emigration, under my authority, to the different agents at the places whence we are procuring emigrants.

Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

I enclose copies of this correspondence, and I trust your Lordship may approve of the views I have taken of the subject.

Nos. 4, 5, and 6.

I have also received a petition from the inhabitants of the banks of the river Demerara, setting forth that but few emigrants had located themselves in that part of the colony, owing to an impression conveyed to the emigrants on authority, that it was not a salubrious district. Copy of the petition and the reply, together with a minute thereon by the Emigration Committee of the Court of Policy, are here with annexed.

I trust these documents will also meet with your Lordship's approval.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

I am, &c.,

HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure 1, in No. 23.

Si:-

Berbice July 20 1841

To His Excellency Henry Light, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, &c. &c.

THE Memorial of the undersigned inhabitants of the County of Berbice, in the Province of British Guiana,

Humbly sheweth,

That your Memorialists contribute their full share and portion to the fund set apart by Ordinance No. 4, anno 1841, for immigration purposes.

That since the passing of said Ordinance, a very great number of immigrants have arrived in the county of Demerara; the expenses of whose passage have been paid out of the public fund, to which your Memorialists have contributed as above stated.

That although the merest chance directed 160 captured Africans into the port of Berbice, no immigrants have hitherto arrived in that county since the passing of the said Ordinance; and your Memorialists apprehend that this absence of immigrants proceeds from one or other of the following causes:—

- 1.—Berbice having been, until very lately, a separate and independent colony, immigration agents abroad are probably ignorant that it now forms a component part of British Guiana, and do not therefore deem it consistent with their instructions to engage immigrants for this county.
- 2.—The commissions and instructions to these immigration agents, bearing your Excellency's sign and seal "at Georgetown, Demerara," naturally lead them to suppose that they are employed to engage immigrants for Demerara only, the seat of your Excellency's government.
- 3.—The want of special and specific instructions to these immigration agents, directing them to engage a certain number of immigrants for the county of Berbice, equal to about one-third the number sent to the county of Demerara. And—
- 4.—The absence of a Member on the Committee of Immigration connected with or interested in the property of this county, occasionally to remind the Honourable Committee that, as the county of Berbice contributes nearly one-third the amount appropriated for immigration purposes, so is it of right entitled, in the same ratio, to the immediate benefit arising from the application of its capital.

That your Memorialists believe these (though apparently of minor import) to be the real and influential causes to which they must attribute the seeming preference given to the county of Demerara, and the total absence of immigrants to the county of Berbice.

That although the county of Berbice be not the seat of government of British Guiana, (a distinction at present entirely dependant on the will and pleasure of your Excellency, Her Majesty's representative,) it possesses a separate and distinct sea-port, having its own custom-house, retaining its separate courts of civil and criminal justice, its stipendiary magistrates, and all the functionaries of an old and independent settlement, fertile as the district of Demerara in soil, more abundant in the extent and variety of its timber on the banks of innumerable creeks, with a splendid river, navigable to a far greater distance into the interior than the Demerara River, (as your Excellency well knows, from having travelled on its waters for about 200 miles,) the county of Berbice, governed by the same laws under your Excellency's administration, holds out the same, if not greater, inducements to immigrants, as does the more favoured county of Demerara.

That your Memorialists, suffering from the great scarcity of labour in an equal degree as the inhabitants of the county of Demerara, and having contributed their just proportion to the immigration funds, consider themselves of right entitled to a fair proportion of the immigrants engaged for the province of British Guiana, and therefore respectfully solicit your Excellency's consideration of their case.

Humbly praying that your Excellency may be pleased to order and direct, that the agents for immigration into this province, in whatever part of the world they are, or may be appointed, shall in future engage for the county, and send to the port of Berbice, a number of immigrants, in proportion to the number engaged for, or sent to, the port of Demerara; and that in the meantime, and until the number of immigrants arriving at the port of Berbice bears a fair proportion to the number already landed at the port of Demerara, your Excellency may be pleased to direct that such vessels as may arrive off the coast with immigrants engaged for British Guiana by the colonial agents, shall call at the port of Berbice for the purpose of landing such immigrants as may be inclined to locate themselves in the county of that name.

And your Memorialists will ever pray, &c.

Berbice, July 12, 1841.

(Signed)

William Campbell.
James Grimond.
James Kirkwood, by his
attorney.
James Laing.
David Cameron, Sen.
David Cameron, (by his
attorney.)
David Cameron, Jun.
Hollingsworth, Lyle, and Co.
John Adams.
F. Nicolay.
Francis Jackson.

D. Fraser.
A. M'Donald.
William Grant.
A. M'Conochie.
Iwen Livingston.
James Lindsay.
Walter Robertson.
J. De Vry.
T. C. Prass.
J. A. Barkup.
J. C. Mackay.
James Mackay.
Joseph Introzie.

BRITISH GUIANA

Robert Pinkerton.	James Christie.
Charles Mattheson.	Richard Thompson.
Alexander Winter.	W. A. Sanders.
Baillie Chisholm.	James Dean.
S. Darson and Co.	Allan Cameron.
Hugh Fraser and Co.	John Sinclair Paton.
B. E. Foderingham.	J. C. L. Gibbons.
J. A. Edwards and Co.	George W. Gibson.
A. Schroeder.	William Richardson.
William Lyle and Co.	Peter M'Dougall.
E. Hicks.	John Ross.
James Laing.	John Inness.
George Laing.	T. R. Curgenven.
J. Chisholm, Jun.	J. W. Obermuller.
E. J. Cameron, M.D.	Isaac Patoir.
Mat. Newlands.	T. Prass.
William Corbett.	G. Parys.
Angus Campbell.	George Adamson.
G. G. Lowenfeld.	Donald Campbell.
Alexander Austine, for self	James Younie.
and James Kirkwood.	William M'Auley.
Lambert P. Henery, (by his	Robert M. R. Ross.
attorney G. G. Lowenfeld.)	C. Cruickshank.
James Bone.	J. Cuming.
Edward Feild.	W. Chisholm.
Donald Ross.	James Hayes.
William Ray.	Lambert Fowler.
D. M'Leod.	Robert Williams.
William Gunn.	Robert Marshall.
Thomas Williams, Jun.	William Bollers.
James Edwards.	C. F. Gemon.
William Walker.	H. J. Chalmers.
Archibald Inglis.	James Patterson.
F. Lanzien.	Peter Nicholson.
William Fife.	P. J. Roleta.
J. W. Forbes.	G. P. Kingshoff.
William Nash.	William Laing.
Thomas Corbett.	J. Tor De Zevaun.
Thomas Hounsell.	John Gomersall.
James B. Fraser.	James Forsythe.
Thomas T. Tait.	T. M. Houston.
Benjamin Bremner.	Thomas Forsythe.
G. W. Bootle, (for self and	Matthew Anderson.
W. Birch.)	A. Sutherland.
John Abensetts.	W. R. Spalding.
Arthur M'Kenzie.	

Enclosure 2, in No. 23.

MINUTE by the Governor.

31st July, 1841.

Encl. 2, in No. 23.

ACKNOWLEDGE Mr. Laing's letter of the 29th instant, with the accompanying petition, received this day; request him to convey to the petitioners the assurance of my sincere desire to meet their wishes on any occasion when I can do so consistently with justice to the emigrants.

Inform him that instructions will be given to the agents of emigration to offer to labourers the choice of being sent to Berbice; but that the decision of the emigrants as to the part of British Guiana to which they desire to be conveyed, must be perfectly voluntary, and most scrupulously observed.

(True Copy.)

H. L.

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

Sir,

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, 31st July, 1841.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct that the agents of emigration beyond the limits of British Guiana do offer to labourers embarking for this colony the choice of being sent direct to Berbice; but that the decision of the emigrants as to the part of British Guiana, to which they may desire to be conveyed, must be perfectly voluntary, and after the agent shall have given them all the information in his power, such voluntary decision of the emigrant must be scrupulously observed by the captain of the vessel.

I am to request that you will communicate the Governor's instructions, as herein contained.

Enclosure 3, in No. 23.

BRITISH GUIANA

Sir,

Immigration Office, Georgetown, 6th August, 1841.

Encl. 3, in No. 23.

I HAVE the honour to transmit you herewith, by desire of His Excellency the Governor, the copy of a circular, which, in consequence of the Berbice petition for immigration, forwarded by you, I have been instructed by his Excellency to address to all the emigration agents beyond the limits of this colony.

In communicating which to the petitioners I am to request that you will be good enough also to convey the assurance of his Excellency's desire to meet their wishes as far as he possibly can.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES HACKETT, Agent-General for Immigration.

James Laing, Esq.
&c. &c.

Office of the Agent-General for Immigration,
3rd August, 1841.

Sir,

I AM directed by his Excellency Henry Light, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, &c., of this province, to request that you will offer to labourers embarking for this colony the choice of being sent direct to that part of it called Berbice, which, although being a county equally fertile and possessing the same advantages for labourers as Demerara or Essequibo, has as yet derived very little advantages from immigration.

Under a supposition that a portion of the emigrants may feel disposed, upon your making this communication to them to embark for Berbice direct, it is his Excellency's desire that your offer to that effect should embrace about one-third of the whole number coming; that amount being about the proportion which Berbice, from its extent and interest, bears to British Guiana.

For the information of such emigrant labourers as may feel disposed to avail themselves of this offer, it may not be unnecessary to afford them some further particulars of the proposed location. The Berbice river, upon which is situated the capital of the county, New Amsterdam, lies about 70 miles east of Georgetown, Demerara, between which and the latter place a constant communication is kept up by land and water, both districts yielding the same description of produce, viz., sugar, coffee, and provisions; both pay the same rate of wages to their labourers, both subject to the same temperature and variation of seasons and climate, and both governed by the same laws, &c. Hence it follows that but little, if any difference, can exist between Berbice and Demerara, or indeed the other county (Essequibo) as regards the prospects or advantages of the immigrant labourer.

In conveying to you his Excellency's wishes on the subject, I am strictly enjoined to forbid any undue persuasion being used in deciding the choice of emigrants as to their locality here, which must be perfectly voluntary; and after you shall have given them all the information in your power, such voluntary decision of the emigrant must be scrupulously observed by the captains of vessels, from instructions to that effect given by you, and for which they will be held afterwards responsible, should it appear on their arrival here (from the tenor of your Despatches) that they have failed to carry such instructions into effect.

Should such a decision of the labourers appear to you, under the foregoing provisions, likely to take place, it would be most desirable that every third vessel (supposing them to be about the same tonnage) should be sent to Berbice, to enable relations and friends to proceed together, to remain undivided upon landing, and to be afterwards located in situations contiguous to each other.

I have, &c.

To the Agents of Emigration (Signed) JAMES HACKETT, Agent-General.
beyond the limits of British Guiana.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Immigration Committee, dated Tuesday, 10th August, 1841.

THE Committee conceives, that with the exception of the immigrants from Madeira, a very large proportion of the immigrants imported to Demerara from Barbados and the other West Indian Islands, have been introduced at an expense to private individuals of from 10 to 12 dollars per capita over and above the sum allowed by the colony; the Committee are of opinion, that if private individuals in Berbice had adopted the same means as has been done by parties in Demerara, the same results would have followed.

The Committee have to observe, with reference to the fourth statement in the petition of the inhabitants of Berbice, that long previous to and whilst the assertion therein contained was receiving the sanction of their signatures, and subsequent to the date of the petition, Mr. Kirkwood, a large proprietor in Berbice, was a member of the Immigration Committee, consequently the Berbicians were not unrepresented in that body until his departure from the colony on the 22nd July.

With respect to the claim as a matter of right made by the petitioners, that a portion of the immigrants, equal to one-third of the whole number introduced into British Guiana should be sent to the county of Berbice, as that county contributes its fair proportion of the expense, the Committee has always been anxious that Berbice should have their just proportion of immigrants introduced at the public expense; but they do not admit that one-third is a fair proportion taken in relation to the amount of taxation paid by that county.

(A true Extract.)

JAMES HACKETT, Agent-General for Immigration.

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BRITISH GUIANA

Encl. 4, in No. 23.

Enclosure 4, in No. 23.

July 21, 1841.

Sir,

I BEG leave to hand you the accompanying petition, and request you will lay it before his Excellency at your earliest convenience.

I am, &c.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES WILLIAMS.

To his Excellency Henry Light, Esq., Governor of British Guiana, &c., &c., and the other the Honourable Members of the Immigration Committee.

May it please your Excellency and Honourable Sirs,

WE, the undersigned proprietors, attorneys, managers, and others interested in estates in that portion of the colony, known as the West Coast and Bank of the River district, most respectfully approach your Excellency and the Immigration Committee. We your petitioners, have been informed, on authority which we cannot doubt, that your Excellency and the Immigration Committee entertain such an opinion of the general insalubrity of this district, but more especially of the river portions of it, as to have caused your Excellency to issue a command to the immigration agent general, requiring him in all instances on the arrival of immigrants to this colony to recommend them not to settle on the river.

Your Excellency and the Immigration Committee cannot but be aware that a recommendation having the sanction of the name of the ruler of the province, and communicated to the recently arrived immigrants, by the official immediately connected with them, must have a most powerful effect in determining the choice of the immigrant in the selection of his new abode. In fact experience up to the present moment, goes to prove that this recommendation has amounted to a positive prohibition, not one immigrant of those recently arrived having as yet settled on the river.

We cannot but feel assured that your Excellency and the Immigration Committee are fully impressed with the conviction that the river district is insalubrious; with equal confidence, however, we trust that when such an opinion is proved to be unfounded, your Excellency and the Immigration Committee will hasten to redress an injury which, from a mistaken impression, is now inflicted upon a particular portion of the colony.

In the first place then, it cannot surely have escaped the notice of your Excellency and the Immigration Committee, that it appears somewhat incongruous and inconsistent to stamp with a charge of insalubrity a portion of the colony, namely the river district, which has been particularly selected by your Excellency and the Immigration Committee, as the site of the dépôt at which are landed all the immigrants as they arrive in the colony, and where, as they may be subjected to remain there for some time when enervated by recent sea sickness and the fatigues of a long voyage, they are peculiarly liable to be prejudicially acted upon by the influence of a new climate.

2ndly. Experience proves the converse to the charge of insalubrity as far as the river is concerned. Your petitioners point with confidence to the gratifying fact of the general good health enjoyed by upwards of 110 Coolies, now located on the west bank of the river, as also to above 50 Bahama labourers, who for the last three years have resided in this district, a considerable distance up the river, and during that period, have enjoyed a more than ordinary exemption from the complaints and diseases incident to all portions of the colony.

Lastly, we have the opinions, and can procure the certificates, of all the medical practitioners in this district, that the charge of insalubrity is unsupported by their experience.

Relying, then, on these facts, and firmly assured of the sense of justice of your Excellency and the Immigration Committee, we scarcely deem it necessary to urge upon your notice that, equally taxed for immigration purposes with the rest of the colony, we claim to be equal participants in the benefits, but shall proceed at once to throw ourselves on the consideration of your Excellency and the Immigration Committee, in the humble but earnest hope that enough has now been advanced to induce your Excellency and the Immigration Committee to withdraw any commands or orders to the Immigration Agent-General as may have the effect of determining the choice of immigrants against settling in the River District, and thus place your petitioners on an equal footing of competition with our other colonial brethren.

And as in duty bound, we, your Petitioners, will ever pray, &c.

(Signed)

J. M. FRASER DODGSON, Proprietor of Vive la Force.
ALEXANDER GRANT, qq. Plantations La Grange
Hague Groenveld, Tenez Ferme, and part Proprietor and qq. of Plantation Windsor Forest.
JOHN BEETE, Representative of Plantation Schoonord.
N. RUDDER, Joint Proprietor of Blankenburg.
CURTIS A. FLEMING, qq. Plantation Haarlem.
W. R. WATSON, Manager Plantation Catharina.
ARCHIBALD M'LENNAN, Manager Plantation Vriesland.
EYRE LYNCH, Manager Plantation Malgre tout.
W. BARRY, Manager Vive la Force.
ALEXANDER MILLER, Manager Plantation La Grange.
J. G. DETERING, Proprietor Plantation La Retraite.
W. BARRY, Proprietor of one-third of Plantation Mil-

Enclosure 5, in No. 23.

BRITISH GUIANA

Sir,

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, July 21, 1841.

I AM desired by the Governor to forward to you the enclosed letter, which has been addressed to me by Mr. James Williams, together with the Memorial therein referred to, in order that the same may be brought to the notice of the Immigration Committee.

Encl. 5, in No. 23.

His Excellency desires me to observe, that the Memorial is sent to the Immigration Committee because it is addressed to them jointly with his Excellency; it is, however, the Governor's opinion, that such a reference would otherwise be unnecessary, and it is not required by the existing Immigration Ordinance.

It is superfluous to observe that labourers arriving in Guiana in quest of employment are perfectly free to select their own employers, in whatever district of the colony they may deem it most advantageous for themselves to accept employment.

His Excellency, however, feels himself compelled by a sense of duty to the community at large, which is deeply interested in the health of the emigrants, to reiterate his desire that you should state to persons arriving in the colony in the capacity of agricultural labourers, that the sea-coasts are generally considered the most salubrious localities.

James Hacket, Esq.
&c. &c.

(Signed) I have, &c.,
H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

Enclosure 6, in No. 23.

Sir,

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, July 21, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, and to acquaint you that the Memorial which accompanied it has been referred by his Excellency to the Immigration Committee, with a letter, of which a copy is annexed.

Encl. 6, in No. 23.

His Excellency requests that it may be communicated to the memorialists, with the expression of his sincere regret that it is not in his power to give an answer more favourable to their wishes.

James Williams, Esq.,
&c. &c.

(Signed) I have, &c.,
H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

Committee of Immigration, Monday, July 26, 1841.

PRESENT,

Hon. — ROBINSON.
Hon. — CROAL.
Hon. — PEARCE.

Mr. Hackett, Agent-General, laid over, by desire of his Excellency the Governor, a Memorial from the proprietors, attorneys, managers, and others, of estates on the west bank and coast of the River Demerara, together with a letter from the Government Secretary.

The Committee having read the same, are of opinion that the gentlemen who signed the Memorial were either premature or incorrect in stating that not one immigrant of those recently arrived have as yet settled on the river, as it appears considerable numbers are located on Plantations La Penitence, Ruimseldt, Houston, Best, Malgre tout, Schoonord, and Maria's Lodge.

The Committee have to observe, that they are not fully impressed with the conviction that the River District is insalubrious, and have not issued any order to the Immigration Agent-General having the effect of determining the choice of immigrants against settling in the River District.

The nature of the advice given to the immigrants has been explained in the copy of his Excellency's letter hereunto annexed of the 21st July instant. which has been forwarded to the memorialists by the Government Secretary.

The Agent-General, having a positive duty to perform under the instructions of his Excellency the Governor with reference to the foregoing minute, had no participation in the opinions therein expressed.

BRITISH GUIANA (No. 17.)

No. 24.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Governor LIGHT.

Sir,

Downing-street, 21st October, 1841.

No. 24.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 100, of the 17th August, transmitting petitions addressed to yourself by the inhabitants of Berbice and of the banks of the river Demerara, praying that a portion of the immigrants brought to the colony may be located in those districts, together with copies of a correspondence on the subject.

I approve, generally, of the course which you have taken in reference to those petitions; but I observe that in your directions to the Agent-General for Immigration you appear rather to limit the proportion of immigrants to be sent to Berbice to one-third.

As Berbice is not, however, to be ensured in this proportion, I do not see why it should be limited to it; for as the whole distribution is to depend upon the disposition of the immigrants themselves, it seems fair that Berbice should have the same chance as Demerara of a larger supply in any one year than that only to which its exact proportion of taxation for emigration purposes would entitle it, supposing the immigrants themselves to be inclined to settle there.

I have, &c.

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

(No. 101.)

No. 25.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, 11th August, 1841.

No. 25.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a further report of Mr. Wolseley of his circuit to the estates on the east and west banks of the Demerara River, and west coast county Demerara.

Mr. Wolseley's report is equally satisfactory with that transmitted with a previous Despatch; it shows the same desire of the peasantry to become proprietors of land, and at the same time it proves that much of their industry is still preserved to the estates, while the disposition to public worship, to improvement of their moral condition, and to the education of their children, keeps pace with their desire for independence by the purchase of land.

At the end of the report is a table, showing the value of the land purchased, amounting to upwards of ten thousand pounds sterling, and an approximating average of the expected crops of the present year compared with the last.

Mr. Wolseley will visit the Essequibo in the course of a few days.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure in No. 25.

CIRCUIT Stipendiary Magistrates' Journal, 28th, 29th, 30th, and 31st of July, comprising a tour of 120 Miles.

Encl. in No. 25.

ON Wednesday, 28th, at seven A.M., left Georgetown under orders "to proceed up both banks of the Demerara River to the last plantations accessible by land, and as far down the west sea coast as Greenwich Park, the last estate in cultivation in that direction." Called in at La Penitence, found the manager not at home; proceeded on to Riumveld, and met the manager on his way to town. On reaching the next estate, Houston, I was more fortunate, and readily obtained all the information I conceived the object of my mission to require. This property, which may now safely be said to be the finest in British Guiana, was purchased by the present owner, about two years ago, for the sum of 42,000*l.* sterling, since which very extensive repairs and improvements have been undertaken, and to an amount which readily admitted of my entering fully into the anxious apprehensions of the proprietor, lest any untoward circumstance should stop the stream of immigration now progressing so cheerfully, and on which so materially depends the advancement or decline of this fine country. That no sacrifice on his part might be wanting to insure the settlement of a contented peasantry, the proprietor has laid out upwards of 6,000*l.* sterling in labourers' cottages, and in connexion with this expenditure is to be added the cost of a channel built expressly for the labourers, and

This property has about 500 acres in cane cultivation, but does not expect to make more than from 500 to 550 hogsheads of sugar for the present year's crop, of which 143 had been made to date. The crop of last year was 595 hogsheads, and that of 1843 might, without difficulty, be brought up to 1,000, could steady labour be obtained. In the month of June there were 462 labourers on the pay list, of whom 432 were natives and 30 Barbadians; in the course of the present month, however, there has been a considerable accession to the manual strength of the estate, no less than 160 emigrants from Madeira, in families, having located there; of whom about 100 have been at work, and several for their first month will earn from 10 to 15 dollars; their general conduct is favourably spoken of, and there had been but a few trifling cases of sickness among them. The rate of wages for cane cutting is one dollar (4s. 2d.) for a punt of canes equal to 500 cubic feet, a task which one labourer often accomplishes by twelve or one o'clock, though in general two are appointed to each punt, as was the rule in the apprentice time, in which case each receives half a dollar for a task commonly finished by eleven o'clock; for weeding, one guilder (1s. 4½d.) for a row of 75 roods when the fields are not unusually heavy or grassy, and a proportionate advance when they are. Boilermen and others about the works receive seven bitts per day, or three dollars and a half per week. The wages are paid every fortnight, and the general expenditure for wages has been about 3,000 dollars (625l.) per month; the exact amount paid in the last six months was 18,176 dollars 21 cents., say 3,786l. 14s. 3d. sterling. No land of this estate has been sold to labourers, though many are known to have bought elsewhere, and not more than half the number of the formerly attached apprenticed labourers are now on the property. A part of my duty at Houston was to inquire for two labourers who had some years since made deposits in part payment of the appraised value of their services as apprentices, with a view of purchasing their discharge, and to apprise them that these deposits were now redeemable, their release having been eventually accomplished, not at their own expense, but by the more satisfactory process of the general emancipation. One of the parties I learnt was dead, the other at the next estate, Eccles, where both families are at present settled.

From Houston rode on to Eccles; saw the parties just referred to, that is, their families, and appointed a day for their going to town to receive their money. This property, in point of accommodation for labourers, is not surpassed by any in the colony; its cultivation has hitherto been limited to about 260 acres of coffee and plantains, but 20 acres have lately been put into canes, and if no impediment occurs to our immigration, Eccles may become one of the most productive estates in the colony. Its easy distance from Georgetown, either by land or river, already renders it one of the most desirable, and the well known liberality of its proprietor will, in all probability, insure for it an adequate supply of labour. The coffee crop of the present year, though much under the capability of the estate, will be rather more than treble the quantity reaped in 1840. The ordinary rate of wages for picking coffee is five bitts (1s. 8½d.) for a basket of about 12 lbs. nett; there are 50 labourers on the pay list, and owing to the expensive nature of the work that has latterly been performed, such as cutting small drains and reclaiming deserted fields, the wages earned have amounted to about 600 dollars per month. There has been no land sold here, or in the immediate neighbourhood, to enable the labourers to establish themselves as freeholders, though a few have purchased lots on abandoned lands higher up the river, who still work on the estate, and thereby here, as elsewhere, until their own domiciles are completely established, secure for themselves, free of any charge, a good dwelling-house, doctor's attendance when ill, and provision grounds to any extent they please to cultivate.

From Eccles went on to Peter's Hall, an estate sold at execution-sale about three months ago for the sum of 113,000 dollars (23,541l. 13s. 4d.). It had long previously been a matter of surprise, that labourers with such fine cottages on neighbouring estates, should remain in the hovels to which here, almost as an exception, they were destined as apprenticed labourers, and in which the circumstances of the estate for long afterwards forbade any improvement, yet such is their attachment to the place of birth that many did remain. The present proprietors are now putting up cottages of a very satisfactory description, and in proportion with these improvements, no doubt the prosperity of the estate will advance. The crop of 1840 was 120 hogsheads of sugar, that of the present year it is expected will be about 100, and sanguine expectations, here as elsewhere, are vested in futurity. The influence possessed by the minister, whose chapel and school front the estate, I should consider the best omen of its prosperity. The wages are as liberal as elsewhere, and though the pay list at present numbers but eighty, it may fairly be expected, that when new houses are finished, emigrants will readily be induced to settle here.

From Peter's Hall rode on to Providence, an estate of great capability, with 280 acres in cane cultivation, excellent labourers' houses (in which there is now vacant room for at least thirty), and at so convenient a distance from town, that it is surprising no emigrants have as yet settled here. In 1840 this estate made 210 hogsheads of sugar, but from want of steady labour is only expected to realize for the present year's crop about 170, of which 46 had been made to date. The same wages are given here as at Houston; the number on the pay list is about 200, and the expenditure for wages generally, 1,200 dollars per month; no land of the estate has been sold to labourers, but many that are working here have bought elsewhere, among whom is the foreman of the estate, who after purchasing his freedom, bought 62½ acres opposite the sand hills, for which he paid 25 joes (38l. 3s. 10d. sterling). And several families have entirely left the property and settled on leased lands at Plantation Glasgow, about 40 miles up the west bank of the river.

From Providence went on to Hustelling, an estate which for years past has been under the benevolent direction of our colonial treasurer, by whom no pains have been spared to improve

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the condition of the labourers in every point of view. A chapel-school forms a part of the establishment, the master being paid by the estate, and the minister giving service as often as his time admits of his doing so. The crop, from about 220 acres of canes, is expected to be about 250 hogsheads of sugar, which will be a falling off of 51 hogsheads comparatively with that of last year; this, however, is rather looked upon as a casualty than an indication of any apprehended decline in its future crops. This property has 180 labourers on the pay list, and on an average expends 1,200 dollars monthly for wages. Where the cultivated estates are so contiguous as those on this bank of the river, and the association of the labourers is so easy, it is not to be supposed that any great difference in the rate of wages can exist, therefore to avoid unnecessary repetitions a summary of the rate of wages shall be given at the end of my day's journey. After leaving Hustelling, called at the farm, the manager not being at home, proceeded on to Covent Garden, the only coffee plantation on this bank of the river, with the exception of Eccles already alluded to; the cultivation consists of 130 acres of coffee and plantains; the crop reaped in 1840 amounted to 4,295 lbs. of coffee, and 32,000 bunches of plantains, that of the present year is expected to be 30,000 lbs. of coffee, and 30,000 bunches of plantains; the value of the latter may be considered to be about 2000*l.* sterling; the former fluctuates according to the state of the home markets. As this property is managed by the proprietor himself, and the work of a light description, I should consider it an eligible situation for the Portuguese or other European labourer.

From Covent Garden went on to the "Little Diamond," where the crops for the last three years have been gradually improving. In 1839 the estate made but 64 hogsheads of sugar, in 1840, 100, and for the present year the manager expects 130; the cane cultivation is about 147 acres; none of the land has been sold, but many of the labourers are freeholders at Craig Village, a short distance from hence, and several have purchased lots of the abandoned estate called Supply, about two miles beyond the Garden of Eden, but these labourers still continue to work at the Little Diamond.

From this estate I proceeded on to the Great Diamond, but not finding the proprietor at home, rode on to Craig Village, the only freehold settlement of labourers on this bank of the river between Georgetown and the Garden of Eden. This place has been gradually increasing in size for the last three years, and consists at present of about 70 dwelling-houses, a chapel of the established church of England, a chapel belonging to the Society of the Plymouth Brethren (to both of which schools are annexed), and a respectable druggist's shop; a minister of the church of England resides on the spot, which may be considered of no small advantage to the villagers, and will no doubt be the means of preventing many little differences among them. It is yet too soon to say much in favour of the general appearance of this place, well-cultivated gardens and a neatness about their cottages are still wanting; but it must, nevertheless, be admitted that the village is improving. There is a good deal of work in hand, such as clearing and draining ground, planting provisions, cutting wood to assist in the building of houses, kitchens, hog pens, fences, &c., but I could not discover that this has materially interfered with the usual supply of labour to the sugar plantations, inasmuch as the generality of these settlers do what is termed in this colony a day's work in the early part of the day on the neighbouring estates, for which they commonly earn two dollars (8*s.* 4*d.*) per week, and work on their own land in the afternoons; indeed the return from their own freeholds would be entirely insufficient to maintain them in the way they at present are disposed to live; that is, to dress in a style if not expensive, a good deal in advance of former years; to have their houses somewhat smartly furnished, and in point of diet approximating so closely to our European habits, that I should never feel in the least uneasy were chance to throw me upon the hospitality of the inhabitants of a negro village. After collecting such information as my cursory visit at Craig enabled me to obtain, I proceeded onwards to Plantation Friendship, where matters are progressing pretty smoothly, though great fears are entertained on the score of immigration, those emigrants that have hitherto arrived, having given a preference to less remote, and in some respects more cheerful parts of the colony. So many of the labourers of this estate having purchased land, and some of them at a distance rather too far to give their continuous services to the estate, its prospects certainly are in rather an unfavourable position; however, the best is being done, and the crop of the present year is expected to be fully equal to that of 1840, which, from 150 acres of canes, amounted to 126 hogsheads. From Friendship rode on to the Garden of Eden, the last estate in cane cultivation on this bank of the river, and at which the high road, such as it is, may be said to terminate. The crop of this estate in 1840 amounted to 88 hogsheads of sugar, and of the present year's crop, 36 hogsheads had been made to date, but how far it may be possible to take off the remaining canes, equal to about 20 hogsheads, within the present year, is a matter of great uncertainty, as the sugar-works which have long been in a state of great dilapidation, have just been levelled to the ground for the purpose of being rebuilt. No emigrant has as yet tried his fortune in this secluded part of the colony, though wages and provision grounds are the same as elsewhere, and labourers' houses by no means inferior to the generality, but the roads must be improved, and access to churches, chapels, and markets, made easy before the advantage of immigration will be felt in this quarter. Immediately beyond the Garden of Eden, but inaccessible except by water, are two abandoned estates called The Brickery and The Supply, where several labourers have bought land upon which from 50 to 100 houses have been built, and it is commonly stated in the neighbourhood, that fully 200 persons may be met with here, either on Saturdays or Sundays, when generally they are all at home. I had no boat at command, or time to attempt taking a census of the population, but I know it to be a fact, that as many as 40 labourers from these two places have occasionally been employed on the first island in the river exactly opposite to The Brickery, which is now a flourishing plantain estate, with about 50 acres

(nearly its entire extent), in luxuriant cultivation. From the Garden of Eden I had expected to cross with my horse to the opposite side of the river, and thereby save a return ride of about 14 miles, but finding it impracticable to do so, returned to Georgetown.

Here, then, I have to state what is the rate of wages paid to labourers on this bank of the river; namely, for cane-cutting 1 dollar (4s. 2d. sterling); for a punt or boat load of canes equal to 500 cubic feet, to which two labourers are appointed, and for which each consequently receives half a dollar, or 2s. 1d. For weeding canes the rate varies from 1 guilder (1s. 4½d.), to 5 bitts (1s. 8½d.), for a row of from 60 to 75 roods. To boilermen and others who are usually detained about the works from sunrise to sunset, from half a dollar to 7 bitts (2s. 5d.), is allowed with a ready dressed meal at noon. The task of cane-cutting and weeding, for which the foregoing rates of wages are paid, is usually finished by one o'clock in the afternoon at the latest, and it is no uncommon thing both for men and women to perform two such tasks in a day; the least efficient workers invariably finish their week's work by Friday afternoon, and take Saturday to themselves.

Thursday, July 29th.—At 7 A.M. crossed the ferry to the west bank of the river, and rode on to Klein Pondroyen, one of the first coffee estates in the colony, but making a deficient crop this year, owing to heavy rains when the trees were in blossom. The crop of 1840 was 42,362 lbs.; that of the present year is not expected to exceed 20,000 lbs. The ordinary rate of wages for picking coffee is from 1 guilder (1s. 4½d.) to 5 bitts (1s. 8½d.), for a basket of 90 lbs. gross, equal to about 12 lbs. nett, and the same for weeding according to the state of the fields: there are 420 acres of coffee and plantains in cultivation, 133 labourers on the pay list; and about 750 dollars is the monthly amount of wages. On this estate is the dépôt for the accommodation of emigrants on their arrival, but in which very few have as yet found it necessary to remain more than a few hours, so urgent is the demand for labour; the building appropriated to this purpose is of considerable extent, well ventilated, and in every other respect unobjectionable. From Pondroyen went on to Goed Fortuin, another coffee estate, though not of equal extent; here the crop of last year amounted to 21,339 lbs., but from the same cause as at Pondroyen, the present year's crop is not expected to exceed 10,000 lbs. There are about 140 acres in coffee cultivation, and 10 acres of canes; 60 labourers on the pay list, whose wages for the month generally amount to about 340 dollars. The parish church and school are but a short distance, and nearer still is a school on the adjoining estate. No emigrants have as yet settled here, though the estate has good houses, and could comfortably accommodate from 10 to 15. From Goed Fortuin proceeded on to Schoonord, where a considerable number of Madeira people have settled themselves, amounting altogether to 108 persons, of whom 57 are adults, and the remainder children; about 40 were at work, and earning the same as other labourers: there had been a few cases of dysentery among them, originating on the voyage, but these were recovering and the others were all in good health. There are also 20 Barbados labourers on this estate, who have been there about a month, and upon the whole were working well; the labourers' houses are of a very comfortable description, and amply sufficient for the present number. The crop of 1840 amounted to 220 hogsheads of sugar, that of the present year is expected to reach 300, of which 85 had been made to date. There are 250 labourers on the pay list, of whom 190 are native or colony labourers, and the 60 emigrants just alluded to; the rate of wages is 1 dollar for a punt of canes of 500 cubic feet, two labourers to the punt, i.e. half a dollar, or 2s. 1d. sterling each, for a task most commonly finished by 11 or 12 o'clock; 1 guilder (1s. 4½d.), for weeding 60 roods, and to boilermen half a dollar per day. The wages are paid monthly, or oftener if the labourers wish it, and the monthly amount is generally from 1200 to 1300 dollars; the cane cultivation is about 280 acres.

From Schoonord rode on to La Grange, where the crop for the present year is expected to be the same as the last, say 152 hogsheads, of which 95 had been made to date. There are 160 labourers on the pay list, of whom 155 are colony natives, and five from Anguilla, settled here since 1838; the wages are paid monthly, and generally amount to about 900 dollars; the cane cultivation is about 234 acres. There is and can be so little variety in the rate of wages when labourers are so readily able to change their employers, that I will make a summary at the termination of my journey on this bank of the river as I did on the opposite side.

From La Grange proceeded to Plantation Nismes, where labourers are much in demand, and carpenters preparing for their reception. This estate has about 140 acres in cane cultivation; made 250 hogsheads in 1840, but owing to the weather being too heavy for the younger canes, and the loss of about 30 labourers who sought employment elsewhere, is not expected to exceed 165 hogsheads for the present year's crop, of which 85 had been made to date: there are 90 labourers on the pay list, and the average amount of wages paid monthly is about 700 dollars.

After leaving Nismes the first appearance on this bank of the river of a labourer's freehold settlement presents itself at the estate called Tocvlugt, where eight lots, varying from a quarter to half an acre each, have recently been sold to labourers at the rate of 40 joes (61l. 2s. 3d.) per acre; and upon three of these the building of houses has already begun. From Tocvlugt called in at La Retraite, where a good deal of land has been sold to labourers from time to time; for instance, close to the parish church on the river side of the public road, from six to eight acres were sold last year at the rate of 40 joes (61l. 2s. 3d.) per acre, upon which several very good cottages have been built; and on the opposite side of the road 24 half-acre lots have been purchased by labourers this year at the rate of six joes (9l. 3s. 4d.) per acre, upon which a few houses have already been begun; so that although this settlement is as yet without a name, it is of sufficient extent to be called a village, and deriving as it does a certain degree of importance and respectability from its immediate proximity to the parish church and

BRITISH GUIANA

parsonage, certainly deserves one. Adjoining to this settlement is the canal called No. 2, on the north side of which is an abandoned coffee plantation called Middlesex, which was purchased in November last by one of the foremen of Plantation Wales for the sum of 11,000 dollars (2,291*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*), payable in five years, of which 3000 dollars were paid down, and the estate put in his possession. At the time of sale there were about 100 acres of coffee in pretty fair order, but the purchaser himself told me that owing to the scarcity and expense of labour, he had not yet been able to pay any attention to the cultivation, or to do more than to get a few old men to take care of the place, and to plant a few patches of plantains and provisions. With the exception of a few watchmen's huts, the only building on the estate is an old logis, destined perhaps to become a chapel or school-house; for I must here observe that the foreman in question, the present landlord, is Jacob Kendall, the respectable black schoolmaster of Plantation Wales, to whom his Excellency the Governor presented a Bible on the examination of his pupils about two years ago; he is still steadily pursuing his avocations both as field-foreman during the early part of the day and as schoolmaster in the afternoon, "striving, as he himself told me, to make up the remainder of the purchase-money, and to save a little to do something with the estate." On the opposite side of the canal two abandoned estates have likewise been purchased by plantation labourers, namely, Bon Sejour for 6000 guilders (416*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*), and La Resource for 50 joes (76*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*); the former of these places was purchased by two labourers, one of whom died about three weeks ago, the other, originally from Wakenaam, is in possession of the estate; the other place, called La Resource, was bought by the former foreman of La Retraite: very little has as yet been done to either of these estates, either in point of cultivation or in building houses, though a great many thatched huts are scattered over the lands, and it is confidently stated that full 100 labourers reside in canal No. 2. This, however, is not an easy matter to ascertain, unless by going over the estates on a Sunday morning or afternoon when the people might be met with.

From canal No. 2 rode on to Plantation Bellevue, and saw the Coolies. The doctor happening to be on the estate, all that were upon his list were assembled in the hospital. With the exception of one case, apparently of consumption, there was no Coolie whom I could decidedly call ill; there were three or four with cuts and bruises, two or three with rheumatism, and about the same number with no perceptible ailment whatever; I was happy to learn that no death had taken place among them for the last two years, with the exception of an infant: they are stated to cohabit with the Negro women, but no instance of procreation has ensued. There are 58 Coolies altogether on this estate (say 56 men and 2 women), of whom from 20 to 30 are effective field-workers; about 13 of these from their own choice receive wages at the same rate as the colony labourers, the others prefer continuing upon the terms of their indentures; they seem to have acquired a desire to make money and to save it: two or three have deposited their earnings in the manager's hands to the amount of 300 dollars, and several are known to have money hoarded in their houses, upon which a watchman is always placed during the time they are at work in the field. Their provision grounds are equally as well attended to as those of the other labourers; the manager thinks it doubtful whether the young men will be disposed to return to Calcutta at the termination of their indentures, and mentioned as a known fact that one or more of them had been making inquiry respecting some of the saleable lands in the neighbourhood, but no purchase has been made. The crop of this estate in 1840 amounted to 200 hogsheads of sugar; that of the present year is expected to be about 180, of which 65 were made to date; the cane cultivation is about 170 acres; there are 86 colony labourers on the pay list, who earn, monthly, about 700 dollars.

After leaving Bellevue, called in at Plantation Wales, where another lot of Coolies are located; these came from Vreed-en-hoop to this estate of their own free will and consent on the 8th March last, and upon the whole have been working pretty steadily ever since; there has been but little sickness among them, and the only death that of an old man about 60 years of age, of a disease with which he was afflicted before he came to the colony. One of the Coolies of this estate has been married to a black woman by the Presbyterian minister of the parish, which is the only instance in the colony of a similar union legally solemnized. The Coolies here consist of 49 men, 2 women, and 3 children; about 7 or 8 of them are working for the same wages as the colony labourers, the others prefer continuing to receive allowances of food, clothing, &c., agreeably to their indentures, either plan is left to their own option. The crop made upon this estate in 1840 was 253 hogsheads of sugar; that of the present year is expected to be about 265, of which number 141 had been made to date. There are about 244 acres in cane cultivation, 146 labourers on the pay list, exclusive of Coolies, and the general monthly expenditure is about 800 dollars.

From Plantation Wales crossed the Hobaboe Creek, and called in at Patientia, a small place cultivated in plantains, of which 37 acres have lately been purchased by labourers in the neighbourhood for the sum of 24,383 guilders (1,693*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*); the ostensible purchasers are only eight in number, among whom is another foreman of Plantation Wales, who for his share of the 37 acres, paid 10,154 guilders (705*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*); but it is not easy to say to what extent this land has been subdivided, or how many were concerned in the general purchase; most of the land was in plantains when the sale took place, but the cultivation had been much neglected; one house only has as yet been built by the purchasers, and another is in preparation.

From this place proceeded on to Vriesland, one of the finest, if not the best estate on this bank of the river, still in a high state of cultivation, and that too without the assistance of a single emigrant; these labourers have long been accustomed to rather more than the ordinary

heads; about the same is expected for the present year, of which 158 had been made to date. The cane cultivation is about 250 acres. The number of labourers on the pay list 170, and the general monthly amount of wages 1,000 dollars. The labourers' cottages are excellent, and there is vacant accommodation at the present moment for 10 families. From Vriesland rode on to a place known as Plantation Milmount, but for years past abandoned, and now bearing the characteristic title of the village of "Free and Easy," comprising about 25 cottages belonging to persons who were formerly apprenticed labourers, and two or three dwelling-houses of other individuals. A neat little chapel school is just about finished, and a teacher, in connexion with the society of Congregational Dissenters, resides on the spot, he being himself a purchaser to the amount of 27*l.* sterling. The land generally was sold in lots of 1 rood by 750, which would be at the rate of 1*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* sterling per acre, and 2½ acres to each lot; but I could not ascertain the exact number that has been bought. It has been stated that not less than 300 persons have squatted here, and that a considerable supply of labour has consequently been lost to the neighbouring estates. Unfortunately my time would not allow me to take a census of the population, but from what information I did obtain, I should say the 25 families that have settled here do not amount to more than 150 persons, including women and children, and that most, if not all the men are doing what is termed a day's work on the estates in the neighbourhood, finding that they have sufficient time afterwards to attend their own garden, cut fire-wood, look after their stock, and do any other little matters on their own premises; generally speaking, the labourers are too fond of making money to sit down in idleness; and if even they do not work so effectively and continuously on their former master's estates, after they have acquired a little land of their own, I venture to assert it will never be found that they are sitting down in idleness, planning mischief, or playing cards, or in any other way employing themselves than in some industrious pursuits or other; and what can be more natural or creditable to them?

After leaving Free and Easy, I proceeded onwards and called in at Plantation Vriedestein; saw the Coolies, 22 in number, all looking cheerful and well, and working, as I was informed, to the manager's satisfaction; they had been offered the same wages as other labourers, but prefer continuing on the terms of their indentures. The crop of this estate in 1840 was 90 hogsheads of sugar; that of the present year is not likely to exceed 80, of which eight only had been made to date. There are some very good cottages here, and about 20 emigrants might be comfortably accommodated. The cane cultivation is about 170 acres; labourers on the pay list 80; and 400 dollars is generally the monthly expenditure for wages.

From Vriedestein rode on to Chantilly, where the "public road," such as it is, merges into an indifferent footpath, and beyond this my orders did not require me to proceed. The great obstruction to emigrants settling on these remote estates is the condition of the roads, and as long as this continues to be neglected strangers naturally will prefer other parts of the colony. Negroes are social in their habits, fond of intercommunication, fond of their church, and of getting there in shoes and stockings instead of wading knee deep through mud and mire; fond also of being able to get their little commodities to market with some degree of ease to themselves, and unless these can be secured to them, as well as comfortable houses, labourers and crops will mutually decline. Not finding the proprietor or manager of this estate at home I had no means of getting the information I had desired respecting the number of persons, principally plantation labourers from different parts of this and the opposite bank of the river, who have purchased land at Harmony and Strick en Heuvel, two abandoned estates at no great distance from Chantilly, but still sufficiently so to be beyond my reach at the hour that I found myself there, 5 o'clock in the afternoon. From general report, however, and such information as the labourers I met with could give me, I should say there must be 100 persons concerned in the purchase of the different lots that have been sold at these two places; that from 50 to 80 houses of one kind and another, but most of them wattled and trashed, have been built by the purchasers; that fully half the number are still working on the estates to which they were formerly attached, readily finishing their week's work by Friday afternoon, and then returning home with seven or eight shillings in their pockets; that the remainder are employed in building or finishing their houses, kitchens, hog-pens, &c., and in putting provisions into their land; and that the wives and children of the purchasers are for the most part permanently settled there. It is of course to be supposed, and the fact is notorious, that those labourers who have become freeholders are from among the most industrious, intelligent, and well disposed of our labouring population, which may be looked upon as a favourable omen of the future character and prosperity of these new villages. Being now at the termination of my survey on the west bank of the river, I have to state that the rate of wages is one dollar for a punt of canes of 500 cubic feet, to which two labourers are commonly appointed, and by whom consequently the dollar is divided; one guilder (1*s.* 4½*d.*) for weeding a row of canes of from 60 to 75 roods in length; and half a dollar per day to boiler-men and others about the buildings, to whom in addition a ready dressed meal at noon is allowed. At 5 P.M. left Chantilly for Plantation Vrieland, and there remained for the night.

Friday morning, July 30th. Left Vriesland at half past six, and rode to the Mindenburg-bridge, of canal No. 1, from which to the top of the canal, a distance of from five to six miles, is one of the prettiest rides in the colony; and from the light nature of the work on coffee plantations, of which the entire canal is composed, I should say is one of the best situations for Portuguese or other European emigrants to settle in. On the two last estates at the top of the canal, called Sans Souci, and Studley Park, several labourers have purchased land. At the first of these places 12 lots of three acres each have been sold to labourers at 30 joes (45*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*) per lot. They have begun to clear the land for provisions, but no house has as

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BRITISH GUIANA yet been built. At Studley Park there is a more advanced settlement called Free Town, consisting of 15 houses neatly thatched with troolies, and pretty well surrounded with fruit trees and garden stuff, but no cultivation of sufficient extent to render the purchasers independent of working elsewhere; the men, therefore, generally speaking, are employed on the different estates, and their wives mostly taking care of their houses and children. As far as I could learn there have been 33 acres of this property sold to labourers in lots of three acres each at 20 joes per lot (30*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*).

The foreman of a neighbouring estate, who is himself one of the freeholders, accompanied me over these settlements, and at his own very comfortably furnished house I rested for a while. From thence returned down the canal, calling in at Nooit Gedacht, at Plantation Java, and at the London Missionary Station.

At Nooit Gedacht the crop of last year amounted to 30,000 lbs. of coffee; the first pick of the present year gave 26,000 lbs., and about 10,000 lbs. are expected for the second; there are 150 acres in cultivation, and from 30 to 40 labourers on the pay list. The average amount of labour paid monthly is about 300 dollars, though the amount varies so materially one month with another that 4,000 dollars for the year is considered the best method of stating this item of the expenditure. From Nooit Gedacht rode on to Java, and from thence, not finding the manager at home, to the London Missionary Station, where an addition is about being made to the chapel, which must have been much wanted, considering that the number of labourers in the canal amounts to about 1,200, and that most of them are members of this mission: a temperance society has been established by the minister, and is said to be productive of much good. From canal No. 1 proceeded on towards the west coast, and called in at Plantation Nouvelle Flandres, where 14 lots of land of half an acre each have been leased to labourers at the rate of 50 guilders (3*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*) each per annum, for 21 years, with the right of renewal. There are some good labourers' houses here, and vacant room for about 20. The crop of 1840 amounted to 60 hogsheads of sugar, that of the present year is expected to be about 100, of which 50 had been made to date. There are 97 on the pay list, of whom 87 are colony labourers, and 10 from Barbados; and the amount generally expended for wages is 600 dollars per month. The rate of wages paid here, and on the other estates that I may visit on this coast will appear in a summary at the end of my survey.

After leaving Nouvelle Flandres I called in at St. Thomas chapel school, where there are now on the books 144 scholars, nearly all labourers' children, with an average daily attendance of about 90.

The next place at which I halted was the village in front of Plantation Den Amstel, which has considerably increased, and has now a good store as well as several very fair country cottages; the land has been sold out by degrees, as purchasers have offered, in lots of half an acre each, at the rate of 220 dollars (45*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*) per lot, and in this way about 17 or 18 acres have been sold; the purchasers are principally labourers of the neighbourhood, who continue to earn their livelihood on the adjoining estates, the small resources as yet derivable from their own lands being quite unequal to maintain them. Den Amstel is a coffee estate, with about 250 acres in cultivation, reaped 15,000 lbs. for the crop of 1840, and will in all probability gather about 45,000 lbs. for the crop of the present year. There are 85 labourers on the pay list, and the general amount of wages, one month with another, is about 500 dollars per month. From Den Amstel made the best of my way to Leonora; arrived there about 7 in the evening, and dismounted for the night. There are some splendid estates on this coast, and but few that surpass Leonora. The crop of 1840 was 353 hogsheads, that of the present year is expected to be about 370, of which 200 had been made to date. There are about 320 acres in cane cultivation; 180 labourers on the pay list, who on an average earn 1,225 dollars per month, that is to say, the total amount of wages paid last year was 14,700 dollars (3,062*l.* 10*s.*) The labourers' houses are excellent, and a schoolmaster is paid by the estate. The foreman of this property is owner of half an acre of freehold land in the neighbourhood, with a comfortable cottage upon it, but still gives his services to the estate.

Saturday morning, at half-past 6, left Leonora for Plantation Vrees en Hoop, where 13 half-acre lots have been sold to labourers at 200 dollars (41*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) per lot. Three shingled and one thatched cottage have been built. The London Missionary Society have a chapel, school, and minister's residence immediately contiguous to these lots, and if the purchasers will but follow the advice that has been given to them to build their houses with some degree of uniformity in shape, materials, and position, this might become a very pretty village. The crop of Vreesenhoop in 1840 was 210 hogsheads, that of the present year is not expected to exceed 150, of which 69 had been made to date. There are about 200 acres in cane cultivation, 150 labourers on the pay list, and the monthly amount for wages is generally about 900 dollars. From Vreesenhoop proceeded down the coast, and called at Met en Meerzorg, an estate of great capability and with all the appearance of being in fine order the labourers' cottages are of the very best description. About 50 Barbados emigrants, in families, have taken up their abode here, of whom 36 are working people; there is still ample and comfortable accommodation for 20 more. There is a large school-house on the side line of the adjoining estate, for which a master is maintained at the joint expense of four neighbouring properties. The crop of last year amounted to 340 hogsheads, and that of the present is expected to be about 420. There are 437 acres in cane cultivation; 206 labourers on the pay list, of whom 170 are colony labourers and 36 Barbados immigrants. The general monthly amount of wages is 1,150 dollars.

From Met en Meerzorg rode to Tuschen de Vrieden, where matters are improving, as far at least as the difference between one crop and another may lead to such an inference. For instance, the crop of last year was but 101 hogsheads, whereas it is confidently expected that the present crop will not be under 140, of which 69 had been made to date. In former years

this estate used to make, for its size, the best crops on the coast. There are about 160 acres in cane cultivation, 90 labourers on the pay list, and the general monthly expenditure for wages is 600 dollars. There are five new cottages vacant, well deserving the attention of immigrants.

From Tuschen de Vrieden rode on to Plantation St. Christopher, where an opinion just the reverse to that which I presumed might be formed from the state of affairs at the last-mentioned estate would, from similar data, be resolved on with regard to this. The present manager of the property has resided on it for 20 years; has often made from 240 to 260 hogsheads of sugar, and for the 10 years previous to the abolition of the apprenticeship the crops averaged 160; last year but 75 hogsheads were made, and this year only 30 are expected, of which but 10 had been made to date. The situation is not only unobjectionable, but from its immediate proximity to the sea and sandy nature of the soil, must be as healthy as any part of British Guiana; the distance from Georgetown, say about 20 miles, may be an obstacle in the way of emigrants settling here, but I know no other reason why they should not give this even a preference to many other situations. The cane cultivation at present consists of about 86 acres; there are 51 labourers on the pay list, whose wages amount to about 300 dollars per month.

From St. Christopher proceeded on to the next estate, Greenwich Park, the last in cultivation on the west sea coast. Here I found the same cause for despondency as I had just left—annually declining crops and no immigrants. The crop of last year amounted, short as it was, to 126 hogsheads, but for the present crop not more than 80 are expected, of which 39 had been made. There are about 120 acres in cane cultivation, and 100 labourers on the pay list, who usually earn from 500 to 550 dollars per month. Next to Greenwich Park, and belonging to the same owner, is an abandoned place called Good Hope, where a good deal of land was laid out and offered for sale some two or three years ago, in the expectation of establishing a freehold village of labourers; to the present moment, however, only four lots have been sold, of an acre each, at 120 dollars per lot; but two cottages have been built and a third building; and, unaccountable as it may seem, the Greenwich Park labourers have purchased 14 acres of the Ruby, just beyond Good Hope, where they have already built their dwellings. The Ruby land was sold at 110 dollars per acre. On the Good Hope estate, at about half a mile from the road, on an elevated sand-reef where the works formerly stood, is a very well finished and commodious little chapel, where at one time a minister of the Church of England was stationed; at present a licensed teacher officiates, and keeps a day-school for the labourers' children; so that, although the situation of this and two other adjoining estates is rather secluded, the advantages of religious worship and instruction are as attainable in this as in any other quarter, and the salubrity of this part of the coast has never, I believe, been questioned. At 11 o'clock left Greenwich Park, expecting to reach the ferry, 22 miles distant, at about 5, calling at some of the estates on my way up. First, called in at the Hague. Manager not being at home, went on to Fellowship, a small coffee estate, with about 100 acres in cultivation and 35 labourers on the pay list. The crop of 1840 amounted to 7,000 lbs. The first pick of the present year gave 2,400, and from 7,000 to 8,000 more are expected. The rate of wages is one guilder for a basket of 85 lbs. gross, equal to about 12 lbs. nett.

From Fellowship rode on to Den Amstel, likewise a coffee estate, but with a cultivation of about 250 acres, and 85 labourers on the pay list. The entire crop of 1840 amounted only to 15,000 lbs; the first pick of the present year gave 10,000, and 35,000 more are expected. The rate of wages paid here is the same as at Fellowship. The manager of the Hague, happening to be at Den Amstel, he obligingly favoured me with the following information respecting that property, namely, that the crop of 1840 was 230 hogsheads of sugar, and that he expected about the same number the present year, of which he had made 70. The cane cultivation at the Hague is about 300 acres; there are 190 labourers on the pay list, and the monthly expenditure for wages is about 850 dollars.

From Den Amstel rode on to Blankenburg, where the crops of the last and the present year are expected to be much the same, say 270 hogsheads, of which 75 had been made to date. There are about 300 acres in cane cultivation, and 200 labourers on the pay list, whose earnings vary from 1,400 to 1,500 dollars per month. At Windsor Forest, where I next called, it is likewise expected that there will be no material difference in the crops of the present and last year, which amounted to 300 hogsheads; and here the amount made to date was also 75. There are 240 labourers on the pay list, and the wages generally amount to 1500 dollars per month.

From Windsor Forest rode to The Best, where the crop of 1840 was 237 hogsheads, and that of the present year is expected to be about 230, of which 80 had been made to date. They have 220 acres in cane cultivation; 160 labourers on the pay list; and expend monthly in wages about 850 dollars. From The Best rode on to Vrees en Hoop, and not finding the manager at home embarked for Georgetown.

Here then I have to state that the rate of wages paid upon the estates on the west sea coast of Demerara is precisely what I have already stated to be the ordinary rate on the west bank of the river, and that in all parts of the colony that I have as yet visited the labourers have their houses and provision grounds free of rent, and are furnished with medicine and medical attendance when ill, at the expense of their employer.

It is not unworthy of remark that, notwithstanding this part of the colony can boast of an agricultural society, an example, strange to say, that has not yet been followed by any other district, no progress whatever seems to be making towards the introduction of the plough or other instruments of husbandry, tending to the diminution of manual labour. That there is a plough in the district I am aware, and there may be two or three, but, *cui bono*, where are the ploughed fields? "The remissness of the labourers in the performance of agriculture" is bitterly complained of in the society's reports, but no rewards are offered to induce negro ploughmen from the adjacent islands (where the use of the plough is as common as in Europe)

BRITISH GUIANA to have a ploughing match in Guiana. The presence of so much virgin land forbids much being said on the subject of manure, the use of which is unknown from one end of the colony to the other; but it is a matter of calculation whether 100 hogsheads of sugar from 40 to 50 acres of manured land would not be more profitable than the same number from 100 acres, the average return from canes in this country at present. In conclusion, I have to observe that although my inquiries were generally considered rather too inquisitorial, and the object of them unintelligible, the information I sought was in no single instance refused, and my reception, even under such circumstances, was most hospitable.

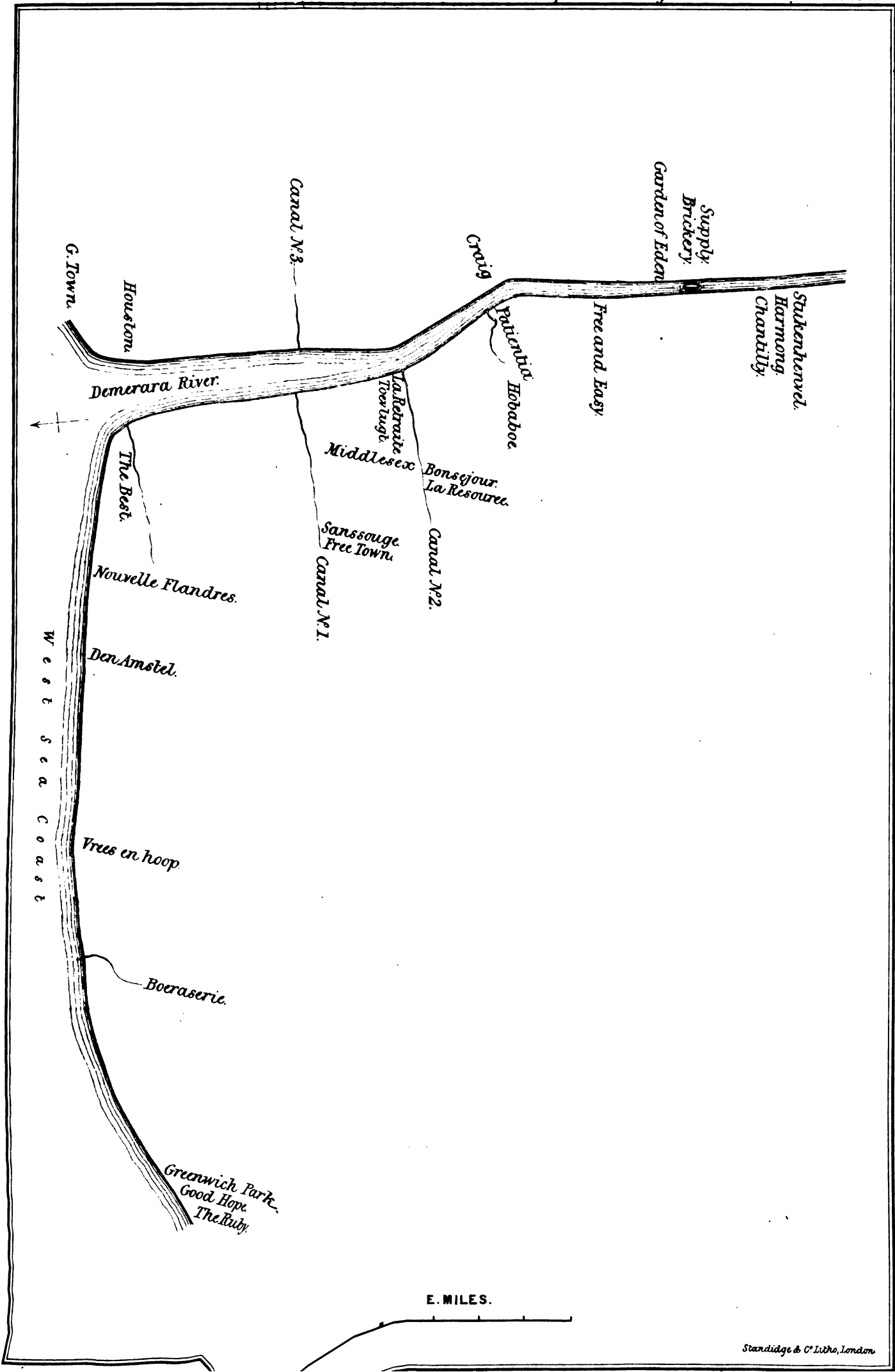
(Signed) **W. B. WOLSELEY**, Circuit Stipendiary Magistrate.
Demerara, August 3, 1841.

PLANTATIONS referred to in the annexed Report.

	Crop of 1840.	Crop ex- pected in 1841.	No. of Labourers on the Pay List.	Monthly Amount of Wages.	Average per Capita.	Remarks.
	hhds. Sugar	hhds. Sugar		Dollars.	Dollars.	
Houston . . .	595	550	462	3,000	6 dollars, 14 cents.	SUGAR ESTATES. N.B. Upon 12 of these 25 sugar estates there will be a decrease in the crops to the amount of 461 hhds.; upon 8 there will be an increase of 307; upon 5 the crop will be the same this year as in 1840; the total deficiency being 154 hhds.
Peter's Hall . . .	120	100	80	650		
Providence . . .	210	170	200	1,200		
Herstelling . . .	301	250	180	1,200		
Little Diamond . . .	100	135	145	800		
Friendship . . .	126	130	110	650		
Garden of Eden . . .	88	56	80	500		
Vriedestein . . .	90	80	80	400		
Vriesland . . .	360	360	170	1,000		
Wales . . .	253	265	146	800		
Belle Vue . . .	200	180	86	700		
Nismes . . .	250	165	90	700		
La Grange . . .	252	252	160	900		
Schoonord . . .	220	300	250	1,250		
The Best . . .	237	230	160	850		
Nouvelle Flandres . . .	60	100	97	600		
Windsor Forest . . .	300	300	240	1,500		
Blankenburg . . .	270	270	200	1,400		
The Hague . . .	230	230	190	850		
Leonora . . .	353	370	180	1,225		
Vrees en Hoop . . .	210	150	150	900		
Met en meer Zorg . . .	340	420	206	1,150		
Tuschen de Vrienden . . .	101	140	90	600		
St. Christopher . . .	75	30	51	300		
25 Greenwich Park . . .	126	80	100	550		
	lbs. Coffee.	lbs. Coffee.				COFFEE ESTATES. N.B. The crops of these 8 estates in 1840 amounted to 132,144 lbs. of coffee, and it is expected that they will make for the present year 188,000, making a difference in favour of the present crop of 55,856 lbs.
Eccles . . .	5,148	27,000	50	600		
Covent Garden . . .	4,295	30,000	70	350		
La Retraite . . .	7,000	10,000	100	500		
Goed Fortuin . . .	21,339	10,000	60	340		
Pondroyen . . .	42,362	20,000	133	750		
Den Amstel . . .	15,000	45,000	85	500		
Fellowship . . .	7,000	10,000	35	220		
8 Nooit Gedacht . . .	30,000	36,000	40	300		

PURCHASES of Freehold Property by Persons formerly Slaves and Apprenticed Labourers, referred to in the Annexed Report.

Name, Locality, or Designation.	Sterling Value.		
<i>East Bank, Demerara River.</i>			
	£.	s.	d.
Foreman of Plantation Providence 62 acres up the river ; no name	38	3	10
Craig Village, estimated at 200 joes, 20 acres at 10 joes	305	11	1
Supply and The Brickery 81 3-rood lots, averaging 30 dollars per rood, estimated at	1,518	15	0
<i>West Bank of the Demerara River.</i>			
At Toevlugt, lots	183	6	8
At La Retraite, lots	427	15	6½
Ditto	110	0	0
Middlesex, an entire estate	2,291	13	4
Bon Sejour, an entire estate	416	13	4
La Resource, part	76	7	9
Patentia, part	1,693	5	3
Free and Easy Village, part of Plantation Milmount	114	11	8
Harmony and Stick-en-heuvel Settlements	305	11	1



Name, Locality, or Designation.	Sterling Value.	BRITISH GUIANA
<i>Canal, No. 1.</i>		
Sans Souci, lots	550 3 4	
Studley Park, lots, called Free Town	336 3	
<i>West Sea Coast.</i>		
Den Amstel, lots	1,604 3 4	
Vrees en Hoop, lots	541 13 4	
Good Hope, lots	100 0 0	
The Ruby, lots	320 16 8	
	10,934 13 5½	

(No. 11.)

No. 26.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Governor LIGHT.

Sir,

Downing-street, October 9, 1841.

No. 26.

I HAVE received your Despatches, Nos. 85 and 101, of the 16th July and the 11th August, transmitting Reports from Mr. Wolseley, circuit stipendiary magistrate, of his visits to the counties of Demerara and Berbice.

For Despatch, No. 85, 16th July, 1841, *vide* printed Papers relative to British Guiana, presented by Command, 1841.

These Reports are highly satisfactory, and contain a summary and authentic view of the state of the colony, and of the various classes of labourers, for which I have to request you to convey my thanks to Mr. Wolseley.

I have, &c.

STANLEY.

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

(No. 107.)

No. 27.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, August 21, 1841.

No. 27.

I HAVE the honour to transmit returns for the month of July, of the state of the emigrants from Sierra Leone.

No. 1.

Your Lordship will perceive that they are in good health, and are a valuable addition to the labour of the colony; one woman was unfortunately drowned in one of the trenches; a copy of the inquest on the body is annexed to Mr. Lyon's return.

A remark by Mr. Allen on the cause of dissatisfaction at Plantations Lima and Walton Hall in some of the people, produced the correspondence I have the honour to transmit.

No. 2.

Mr. Rose seems to have remedied the evil complained of.

It is essential that the emigrants should not be placed in temporary buildings; if it does not produce dissatisfaction, it causes habits of indifference to comfort and cleanliness, which tend to disease.

Although every pains are taken to prevent location on estates where cottages are not ready for the reception of emigrants, yet it is evident that planters are not scrupulous on that point.

When Portuguese emigrants arrive, they are landed at the dépôt; the Agent-general recommends certain estates, but they generally follow the advice of their countrymen, older emigrants, as to location: and, consequently, are often uncomfortably lodged; and this has produced changes, which, perhaps, may be the reason I have not received returns as to their condition.

Vide Letter from Mr. Ware, annexed.

The returns of the captured Africans located in Berbice have not yet arrived.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure 1, in No. 27.

MONTHLY RETURN of African Emigrants located in District A (Upper Section), 1st August, 1841.

Location.	Number.				Young Children.		Total.	Deaths.	Number of Sick.	At what Work employed.	For what Wages.	What Relationship (if any) exists among them, and have they formed any permanent Connections on the Estate, or in the Neighbourhood?	Have they Provision-Grounds? Do they cultivate them?
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Males.	Females.							
Plantation Helena.	14	1	..	2	..	1	18	None.	None.	Agriculture.	The men six bitts per day, the girls three bitts per day.	Tom, Sam., and Patrick Williams are brothers; John Butcher and Samuel McAuley are also brothers; and John and Elizabeth Copley are brother and sister; John Thomas (second) and Tom Williams are cousins, as are Samuel Hamden and John Hastings; James Watt is cousin to E. Copley, and John Thomas (first) and Tom Browne are likewise cousins. Christina is the daughter of Elizabeth Copley; the rest are unconnected. None of them have formed any permanent connections on the estate, or in the neighbourhood.	They have all got provision-grounds, but have not yet cultivated them.

GEORGE BALL, Stipendiary Justice of the Peace.

MONTHLY RETURN of African Immigrants located in District A (Lower Section) 1st August, 1841.

Location.	Number.						Deaths.	Number of Sick.	At what Work employed.	For what Wages.	Have they Provision-Grounds? Do they cultivate them?	What Relationship (if any) exists amongst the Africans? Have they formed any permanent Connection on Estate?	General Remarks.	
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Young Children.									Total.
					Males.	Females.								
Plantation Ramore.	6	2	..	..	1	1	10	No death	None	General work	33 to 50 cents.	No . . .	2 married. 2 children. 4 unconnected.	The Africans sent to Plantation Dochfour have left that estate, supposed to have gone to Houston.
Plantation Greenfield.	8	3	..	..	2	1	14	„	„	„	„	No . . .	3 married. 3 children. 2 brothers. 3 unconnected.	

J. MacLEOD, Stipendiary Magistrate.

RETURN of Emigrants from Sierra Leone working as Labourers or Tradesmen in District E, County of Demerara, this 1st day of August, 1841.

Name.	Age.	Location.	Occupancy.	State of Health.	From what Place or Country.	Remarks as to Lodging, Wages, &c.
Peter Walmer . . .	About 30	Met en Meerzorg .	Boatman	Very good	Kingleton in the Kroo Country.	These Kroomen have been at Met en Meerzorg since their arrival in the colony. They had at first apartments in the upper part of the hospital, but have now two rooms in a cottage. A room has been offered to each, but declined on their part in my presence, when they expressed perfect satisfaction with the accommodation they possess. Their wages as boatmen are ten dollars per month and rations, but from this date they cease to be boatmen, being under the impression that they can make more money in the field. Their wages in the field are to be five bitts for a task, and at the rate of six bitts for any portion of additional work performed in the same day. They told me that they expected to be able to earn a dollar a day in the field. They seem to be, and expressed themselves to be, perfectly happy and contented.
Seabreeze	25	..	..	..	..
Davis	25	..	..	..	..

MONTHLY RETURN of African Emigrants located in District G, County of Essequibo, 1st August, 1841.

Location.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Young Children.		Total.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Sick.	At what Work employed.	Rate of Wages.	Have they any Provision-Grounds? Do they cultivate them?	What Relationship have the Africans among themselves? Have they formed any permanent Connection with the Estate?	Remarks.
					Males.	Females.								
Plantation Bathsheba's Lust.	8	3	1	..	3	1	16	1	1	In general agricultural as field.	From ten dollars to eight.	They have provision-grounds of good land in the immediate vicinity of their houses. As yet they have not cultivated their grounds.	All the grown-up females are married. Husband, wife, son, and daughter. None of the unmarried men have formed any connection with the estate's women.	The reason given to me on the estate for not cultivating the provision - grounds was, that the Creoles told them they would not be allowed to reap them when ripe. Now I had explained they intend cultivating them. <i>Vide</i> coroner's inquest enclosed. Rheumatic affection.
Plantation Hamburgh.	5	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	Jobbing and field labour, with an allowance of rice and salt fish.	Eleven dollars monthly.	Provision-grounds they have, but do not cultivate them.	They are all Kroomen; have as yet formed no connection with the labourers on the estate.	They do not cultivate their grounds, as they do two tasks a-day, and are most pleased with their situation.

1st August, 1841.

A. W. LYONS, Stipendiary Magistrate. District G.

INQUISITION.
County of Essequibo.

To wit.

An inquisition taken at Plantation Bathsheba's Lust, in the colony of British Guiana, on the first day of June, in the year of our Lord, 1841, before me, Dr. S. J. Schild v. Sansorg, justice of the peace, one of the coroners of our lady the queen for the colony aforesaid, upon the view of the body of Anna Wilson, then and there lying dead, upon the oaths of George Gillespie, of William Mitchel, of Henry Gullifer, of George Walker, surgeon, good and lawful men, who, being sworn and charged to enquire, on the part of our lady the queen, when, where, how, and after what manner the said Anna Wilson came to her death, as also by what signs and marks the body of the said Anna Wilson was known or identified, do say upon their oath, that the deceased came to her death accidentally, by being drowned in a trench of said estate.

In witness hereof, as well the aforesaid coroner as the jurors aforesaid, have to this inquisition put their hands on the day and year, and at the place first above mentioned.

Was signed G. GILLESPIE.

WM. MITCHELL.

H. GULLIFER.

GEO. WALKER, Surgeon.

Jurors.

Coroner.

Dr. S. J. SCHILD v. SANSORG, J. P.

(A true copy.)

Dr. S. J. SCHILD v. SANSORG, J. P.

MONTHLY RETURN of African Emigrants Located in District G, County of Essequibo, 1st August,

Location.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Young Children.		Total.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Sick.	At what Work Employed.	Rate of Wages.	Have they any Provision-Grounds? Do they Cultivate them?	What Relationship have the Africans among themselves? Have they formed any permanent Connection with the Estate People.	Remarks.
					Males.	Females.								
Plantation Hoff Van Aurich,	12	5	3	1	1	1	23	...	...	In general agricultural, as field-jobbing, &c.	From 8 to 10 dollars per month.	They have provision-grounds of good land near their houses. As yet they have only begun to cultivate them.	All the grown-up females are married. Husband, wife, son, and daughter. None of the unmarried men have formed any connexion with the Estate's women.	Independent of their wages they have received warm clothing, blankets, &c., and a weekly allowance of salt-fish and rice, from their arrival to the present date. Arrived on the estate May 27th, 1841.
Plantation Sophurburgh.	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	The general work of the estate.	From 8 to 10 dollars per month, with an allowance of 2 lbs. of salt-fish weekly.	They have provision-grounds, and they cultivate them.	None lawfully married; nevertheless they have children on the estate.	Appear comfortable and happy.

1st August, 1841.

A. W. LYONS, Stipendiary Magistrate. District G.

MONTHLY RETURN of African Immigrants Located in District H, 1st August, 1841.

Location.	Number.						Deaths.	Number of Sick.	At what Work Employed.	For what Wages.	Have they Provision-Grounds? Do they Cultivate them?	What Relationship, if any, exists, amongst the Africans? Have they formed any permanent Connexion on the Estate, or in the Neighbourhood?	General Remarks.	
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Young Children.									Total.
					Male.	Female.								
Plantation Lima.	4	4	1	..	1	1	11	..	Men, field-work. Women, me-gass carriers.	1 f. to 5 bitts daily. 2 to 3 bitts daily.	Grounds given; as yet very little cultivation.	Two men are married; one man and one woman have each a child; no connexion formed with Estate's people.	Five weeks' provisions were issued to these people, gratis, after their arrival, and each of them had a saucepan. Four persons have two rooms allotted among them in a cottage. The remainder have separate rooms in a small building. None of the Africans on this estate seem satisfied. Four men and one woman left towards the end of July with the view of bettering their situation; of whom one man and his wife went to Plantation Reliance, and three men to Bathsheba's Lust District G. No blame, however, seems to attach to the manager on this or any other account having reference to these people.	
Plantation Walton Hall.	5	3	..	..	..	..	8	..	All field-work.	3 to 5 bitts, according to work performed, same as estate's people.	Ditto . .	Three men have wives; two are brothers. No connexion formed with estate's labourers.	Food issued for the first two months, and a cook employed to prepare it. Suit of clothing gratis, and cooking utensils. These people are lodged in the sick and school-house, no cottages being ready for their reception.
Plantation Reliance.	11	1	..	..	..	..	12	..	Ditto . .	Ditto . .	Ditto . .	One married couple from Africa. No connexion formed on estate.	Have had provisions gratis from 27th May (date of arrival) to 7th August inclusive, when this is to cease. Clothing, blankets, and cooking utensils, have likewise been issued gratis. The Africans on Reliance are well lodged, and seem happy and contented.

N. B.—Since this Report was made out, two men and one woman have left Walton Hall for Windsor Castle. The dissatisfaction of the Africans on Walton Hall and Lima may, perhaps, be chiefly ascribed to there having been no distinct and comfortable means of accommodating them on their arrival, though cottages are in progress for that purpose.

J. A. ALLEN, Stipendiary Magistrate.

RETURN of Emigrants from Sierra Leone, Located in District B, for the month of July, 1841.

Name.	Age.	Location.	Occupation.	State of Health	From what Place or Country.	Remarks as to Lodgings, Wages, &c.
Andrew Hamilton	Ages unknown, but all able effective labourers.	Pl. Turkeyen .	Field labourer.	Good .	Sierra Leone.	They are well lodged, cheerful, and contented. They perform the full ordinary task at all sorts of work, except cutting canes; in the former case they are paid five bitts per day, and, in the latter case, four bitts for two-thirds of ordinary task, besides full food allowance to the end of July.
William Gurney .		..	..	..	..
Joe M ^c Aulay . .		..	..	..	..
George Pratt . .		..	..	..	..
James Baker . .		..	..	..	..
Joseph May . .		..	..	..	..
Thomas William.		..	..	..	..
Mary Young, sen.		..	..	..	..
Mary Young, jun.		..	Domestic .	..	..
Elizabeth Pratt .		..	Field labourer.	..	..
Anna Young . .		..	Logie labourer	..	..
T. Pratt, { Chil.		..	..	..	..
M. Pratt, { dren.		..	..	..	..
William Dove . .		Pl. Annandale .	Field labourer.	..	..
Jim Dove	All able, effective labourers, except 1 woman suffering from Tetta-worm.	Well lodged, and conduct themselves satisfactorily in every respect. They are paid for jobbing, and, in buildings, five bitts per day. In field they only perform five days' tasks throughout the week, and are paid at the rate of five bitts per task. They were allowed full food allowance to the 15th of July.
William Hore . .		..	..	..	..
Thomas Peter . .		..	..	..	..
William Peter . .		..	..	..	..
Thomas Dove . .		..	..	..	..
Andrew Martin .		..	..	..	..
William Bull . .		..	..	..	..
John More . . . .		..	..	..	..
John Carrol . . .		..	..	..	..
Judy Carrol . . .		..	..	..	..
Nancy Mure . . .		..	..	..	..
Martha Dove . . .		..	..	..	..
Phoebe Dove . . .		..	..	..	..
T. Carrol, { Chil.		..	..	..	..
J. Carrol, { dren.		..	..	..	..
W. Dove, {		..	..	..	..

RETURN of Emigrants from Sierra Leone, Located in District B, for the month of July, 1841.—continued. BRITISH GUIANA

Name.	Age.	Location.	Occupation.	State of Health.	From what Place or Country.	Remarks as to Lodgings, Wages, &c.
George Baillie . .	Ages unknown, but able, effective labourers.	Pl. Le Resouvenir	Field labourer	Good	Sierra Leone	The men on Plantations Le Resouvenir and Montrose perform the full ordinary task, and are paid at the same rate as the estate people, viz., five bitts for ordinary work, and six bitts for cutting canes. The women on Plantation Le Resouvenir have not hitherto been required to work. Full food allowance given on both estates to the end of July.
John Bull . .		"	"	"	"	
Thomas Pierre . .		"	"	"	"	
Thomas Ben. . .		"	"	"	"	
Walter Grace . .		"	"	"	"	
Pompey Rutledge .		"	Jobber . .	"	"	
Thomas Bull . .		"	In buildings .	"	"	
Mary Rutledge . .		"	Field labourer	"	"	
Susanna Pierre . .	Ages unknown, but able, effective labourers.	"	"	"	"	All comfortably lodged, and appear happy and contented. A full suit of clothes was given to every emigrant, located in this district, from Sierra Leone.
Nancy Bull . .		"	"	"	"	
Jack Andrew . .	25	Pl. Montrose .	"	"	"	
Jack Purser . .	36	"	"	"	"	
Peter Jumbo . .	24	"	"	"	"	
Sak Water . .	22	"	"	"	"	
Tom Reid . .	23	"	"	"	"	
Y-flow Will . .	25	"	"	"	"	
Tom Teby . .	33	"	"	"	"	

1st August, 1841.

(A true Return.)
D. MACLENNAN, Stipendiary Magistrate.

NOMINAL RETURN of African Emigrants in District F this 1st day of August, 1841.

Name.	Age.	Location.	Occupation.	State of Health.	From what Place or Country.
John Gray	30	Plantation Bank Hall.	Field and jobbers.	Very good.	Sierra Leone.
Thomas Nunney . .	26				
Tom Walker	29				
Betsy Gray	25				
Hannah Turner . .	28				
John	27				
Alick	32				

Remark.—These emigrants are comfortably lodged, work remarkably well, and earn from six to ten dollars per month.

WALTER HOWARD WARE, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Enclosure 2, in No. 27.

Sir,

District F. Leguan, August 16, 1841.

In forwarding my monthly return of emigrants in this district, I have the honour to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the Portuguese emigrants located upon Plantations Meerzorg and Friendship are not lodged in cottages, but occupy the hospitals of these estates, which have been divided into a number of apartments. These emigrants have not expressed themselves dissatisfied with their accommodations, but they are so filthy in their persons and habits, that I fear were disease and sickness to creep in among them, confined together as they are in these buildings, the mortality would be very great. In justice to Mr. John Ross and Mr. O'Brien, the managers of these properties, I beg respectfully to say, that every attention appears to be bestowed upon the emigrants by these gentlemen, but it appears they were not prepared with suitable accommodation, when these labourers were sent down to these estates. I have the honour to request his Excellency will be pleased to direct what steps are to be adopted relative to the accommodation of these Portuguese emigrants.

Encl. 2, in No. 27.

The Honourable the Government Secretary.

(Signed) I have, &c.
WALTER HOWARD WARE,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

ORDER.

NOTICE to be given to the Agent-general of Emigration, of the way in which the intentions of the Governor are frustrated. If the Portuguese choose to remain where they are, the magistrate cannot interfere; it is by such locations that discredit may arise to the colony. The

BRITISH GUIANA Sir,

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, 11th August, 1841.

I AM desired by the Governor to acquaint you that there has been this day received from the stipendiary magistrate of the district in which Plantation Lima is situate, a report of which so far as relates to Plantation Lima, the following is an extract:—

"None of the Africans on this estate seem satisfied. The dissatisfaction of the Africans on Lima may, perhaps, be chiefly ascribed to there having been no distinct and comfortable means of accomodating them on their arrival. Though cottages are in progress for that purpose, four men and one woman left towards the end of July, with the view of bettering their situation, of whom one man and his wife went to Plantation Reliance, and three men to Bathsheba's Lust, District G.

"No blame, however, seems to attach to the manager on this or any other account having reference to these people."

The Hon. Peter Rose,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

I have, &c.

H. E. F. YOUNG,
Government Secretary.

(True Copy.

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

Sir,

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, 11th August, 1841.

I AM desired by the Governor to acquaint you that there has been this day received from the stipendiary magistrate of the district in which Plantation Walton Hall is situate, a Report of which, so far as relates to Plantation Walton Hall, the following is an extract:—

"These people (the Africans) are lodged in the sick and school house, no cottages being ready for their reception. Since this report was made out, two men and women have left Walton Hall for Windsor Castle. The dissatisfaction of the Africans on Walton Hall may perhaps be chiefly ascribed to there having been no distinct and comfortable means of accomodating them on their arrival, though cottages are in progress for that purpose."

James Chapman, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

I have, &c.

H. E. F. YOUNG,
Government Secretary.

(True Copy.)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

Sir,

Demerara, Georgetown, 12th August, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, containing an extract from a Report of the stipendiary magistrate of the district in which Plantation Lima is situate, relating to the Africans on that estate.

I have to request you will be pleased to inform his Excellency the Governor, that it is my intention to transmit to Mr. Hutson, the manager of Lima, a copy of the extract sent to me, with a request that he will immediately furnish me with a detailed statement of every circumstance which relates to the Africans on Lima, since their location on that property. When I am in possession of the particulars, I will, without loss of time, transmit the same to you for his Excellency's information.

In the meantime I may, however, remark, that it appears to me that the stipendiary magistrate is under some mistake, as to the cause of dissatisfaction, if any now exists.

With respect to their accommodation, in a letter dated the 28th May, from the manager of Lima, he states—"The Africans have all arrived, they are comfortably lodged in the school house, I have given Thomas Cole half of the adjoining cottage, I am much pleased with him and the people; they are the sort of immigrants we want; we can repair the old ranges for a hundred more. I have given them all provision grounds, and have allowed them a day or two to weed and plant them on their own account." Again, on the 13th July, Mr. Hutson writes, "An African came here from Bathsheba's Lust, on Friday last, and was harboured on the estate until Sunday, without my knowledge. He told the Africans, that if they would go to Bathsheba's Lust, they would be fed for six months, get a present of clothes, plates, knives, forks, spoons, &c., &c., &c. He succeeded in cramming these people, and abducted five of them in the middle of the night. I regret the absence of Thomas Cole; his presence would have prevented this."

From these abstracts from Mr. Hutson's letters, it would appear that the cause of the people quitting Lima was not occasioned by their having no distinct and comfortable means of accommodating them on their arrival; the real cause appears to have been that assigned in Mr. Hutson's letter of the 13th July.

The building designated the school house is a large one, raised upon brick pillars with two floors, which has been divided into apartments, and, I believe, has ample accommodation for all the Africans sent to Lima. I am, however, happy to be able to state for his Excellency's information, that three of the Africans arrived in town from Lima on Monday morning, they returned again yesterday morning in the estates' schooner, they appeared to me happy and contented, and expressed to me their anxiety to get back, as they were losing money by remaining in town; they added, that they did not like this large town, Lima was much better.

I shall direct Mr. Hutson to communicate with the stipendiary magistrate, (Captain Allen,) as it is my wish that he should be made acquainted with all the facts of the case. BRITISH GULANA

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PETER ROSE.

(True Copy.)
H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

Sir,

Georgetown, Demerara, 19th August, 1841.

I BEG leave to enclose you copy of a letter which I received last night from Mr. Hutson, the manager of Plantation Lima, in reference to the Africans located on that property, which I request you will be pleased to lay before his Excellency the Governor.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PETER ROSE.

ORDER.

A proprietor will never keep emigrants who cannot place them in cottages. I am glad Mr. Rose has given cottages. The Agent-general will be directed to endeavour to prevent any emigrants from going on estates where they are to be lodged as in barracks.

(True Copy.)
H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT,
19th August, 1841.

My Dear Sir,

Plantation Lima, August 16th, 1841.

I RECEIVED this morning your letter of the 12th inst., with copy of an official communication of same date annexed.

The Africans upon this estate appeared cheerful and contented from the day of their arrival here, on the 27th of May, until about the 10th of June, when an African from Bathsheba's Lust, named Wilson, came upon this estate, and was harboured here for two days. This man completely unsettled the Africans: he told them, that if they would go with him to Bathsheba's Lust, that they would be fed for six months, and get clothes, knives, forks, spoons, and all manner of presents. He spread discord and dissatisfaction among them, and succeeded in enticing away four men and one woman, by names James Peter, Samuel M'Auley, James Carew, James Johnson, and Fanny Johnson, who left this estate on the night of the 12th July. I am confident that these five Africans would have remained, and become permanent labourers upon this estate, if unfair means had not been resorted to; and this would not have occurred had Thomas Cole, the headman, remained upon the estate, instead of returning to Sierra Leone.

I really considered that the sixteen Africans were very comfortably lodged on their arrival upon this estate. Seven men, four women, and one boy, were lodged in the building that was formerly a school-house. The accommodation there afforded them was four separate apartments for the four women and their husbands, and the son of one of them; and three separate apartments for the three single men. The remainder of the Africans, viz., one man, his wife, daughter, and a boy, occupied the whole half of a new cottage.

I supplied each of the Africans with a saucepan for cooking, and with provisions for five weeks, gratis. I allotted garden-grounds to each, and allowed them a week to cultivate the same: I paid their wages weekly, at the same rate as our other labourers; and I also advanced money to them to buy clothes with.

Captain Allen visited the Africans upon this estate in the beginning of this month. He approved of the cottages, but disliked the plan of the building already alluded to, which he compared to a barrack, and said it would only answer as a receiving-house for immigrants. He recommended me to remove the Africans into cottages, to which I have already attended; and most of the Africans upon this estate are now lodged in cottages, that, I think, will stand a comparison with any in this country.

Captain Allen is at present in Pomeroon, which prevents my communicating with him on this subject until he returns to the coast.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY HUTSON.

Peter Rose, Esq.

(No. 109.)

No. 28.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, August 21, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the stipendiary magistrates' returns for the month of July. Messrs. Brittain's and Strutt's returns are not yet received.

No. 28.

BRITISH GUIANA

Mr. Wolseley's summary is herewith annexed.
I have no remarks to offer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 28.

AN EXTRACT of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints for July, 1841.

Encl. in No. 28.

Magistrates.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Offences.	How disposed of.
J. M'Leod . .	..	. . . . .	. . . . .
T. Coleman . .	..	. . . . .	. . . . .
A. van R. de Groot . .	..	. . . . .	. . . . .
C. R. Whinfield . .	..	. . . . .	. . . . .
A. M. Lyons . .	2	1 complaint by the manager of an estate against four labourers, for taking away their tools on quitting for another employ.	Ordered to return them.
		1 complaint preferred by a labourer against his manager for the recovery of wages.	Dismissed on the evidence of the pay-books; magistrate ordered to take further evidence.
J. A. Allan . .	1	1 complaint preferred by a labourer against his manager for the recovery of wages.	Judgment for amount claimed, 12½ dollars.
Geo. Ball . . .	4	2 complaints preferred by labourers against wood-cutters for the recovery of wages.	One dismissed; the other adjusted to the complainant's satisfaction.
		2 disputed wages accounts between master carpenters and their journeymen.	Adjusted, and the amount paid.
J. O. L. Mure . .	6	3 complaints preferred by journeymen carpenters against a secondary class of master carpenter, for the recovery of wages.	Judgment in favour of complainants, and, in default of funds, warrant issued to distrain.
		2 complaints by plantation labourers against their managers to recover wages.	One dismissed; the other paid with suitable compensation for lost time.
		1 complaint preferred by a labourer against a task-gang manager to recover wages.	No one appeared to prosecute.
D. MacLennan . .	5	3 complaints preferred by labourers against their managers for arrears of wages.	One disproved and dismissed; in the other two, awards according to the amounts due.
		1 complaint by manager against two labourers, alleging that they refused to quit, though duly discharged from the estate.	Ordered to quit within five days.
		1 complaint preferred by the manager of an estate against two cowherds who, from neglect of duty, had occasioned the loss of a cow, and injury to other cattle.	Compromised on payment of 3 <i>l.</i> 1 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i> to the complainant.
W. H. Ware . . .	6	5 instituted for the recovery of wages by jobbing carpenters against master carpenters.	Awards made in favour of complainants, with suitable compensation for lost time.
		1 complaint preferred by a wood-cutter against a carpenter for non-payment of the sum agreed upon for work performed.	Payment ordered, with two dollars compensation for time lost preferring complaint.
W. J. Sandiford . .	8	1 labourer charges his manager with preventing him from reaping his ground provisions.	Charge denied; order given to offer no obstruction to the complainant.
		1 labourer against planter, to recover wages.	Judgment in favour of complainant.
		1 planter against labourer, charging him with illegally taking away some boards from a house.	Restitution of the boards ordered.
		1 labourer against planter, for detaining a bunch of plantains, suspected to be stolen.	The accused reprimanded for his officiousness.

Magistrates.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Offences.	How disposed of.
K. Heyland. (Georgetown district.)	52	1 labourer against planter, to recover wages.	None due; case dismissed.
		1 complaint between two carpenters for wages.	Amount claimed ordered to be paid.
		1 labourer against planter, for hire of a boat.	Settled to complainant's satisfaction.
		49 disputed wages accounts, town inhabitants.	15 dismissed, 2 settled out of court; 32 adjusted.
		2 carpenters' apprentice boys against their masters, for ill usage.	One disproved; the other partially substantiated, and two dollars awarded to complainant.
		1 complaint preferred by a planter against two labourers, who had engaged to work for him and afterwards refused to do so.	Dismissed.

SUMMARY of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaint for the month of July, 1841.

Messrs. Stipendiary Justices MacLeod, Coleman, De Groot, and Whinfield, report that they had no complaints between masters and servants preferred before them during the month of July.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Lyons' record contains two cases; the first a complaint preferred by the manager of an estate against four labourers, charging them with taking away their tools upon leaving the property, the said tools being the property of the landlord; the accused parties admonished: the other is a complaint preferred by a labourer against his manager for the recovery of wages which, according to the pay-book, appeared to have been paid, and the case was dismissed. The magistrate has however been directed to resume his proceedings and to take further evidence.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Allen's record contains one case, a complaint preferred by a labourer against his employer, charging him with withholding a portion of his wages. The excuse, in defence, was, that a counter claim existed against him in the shape of a shop or store account, but this not being persisted in as a set-off against his wages, the matter was amicably settled, and twelve dollars and a half, the amount claimed, paid to the complainant.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Ball's record contains four cases, of which two are complaints preferred by labourers against wood-cutters for the recovery of wages, of which one was dismissed and the other adjusted to the complainant's satisfaction. The remaining two cases were complaints between master-carpenters and their journeymen, in both of which awards were made to the satisfaction of the complaining parties.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Mure's record contains six cases, of which three were preferred by journeymen carpenters against a secondary class of master carpenters for the recovery of wages, in all of which it became necessary to distrain for want of sufficient funds. Two of the remaining three cases were complaints preferred by labourers against their managers to recover arrears of wages, one of which was dismissed and the other forthwith settled, with a reasonable compensation for the time lost attending before the magistrate. The last case is a complaint preferred by a labourer against a task-gang manager for the recovery of wages, which fell to the ground in consequence of no one appearing to substantiate the charge on the day appointed for its investigation.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice MacLennan's record contains five cases, of which three were complaints preferred by plantation labourers against their managers for the recovery of balances due upon wages' accounts, one of which was disproved and dismissed, and in the others awards made according to the amounts proved to be due. Of the remaining two complaints one was preferred by the manager of an estate against two labourers, whom he alleged refused to remove themselves from the property from whence they had been duly discharged. The magistrate ordered their removal within five days under pain of ejectionment. The other case was against two cowherds by their employer for improper conduct and neglect of duty, whereby a cow of the value of 11*l*. was drowned and other cattle much injured. The accused denied that they had neglected their duty, but upon proof of the fact being established offered to pay 14 dollars 67 cents. each, which was accepted by the complainant and the case terminated.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Ware's record contains six complaints, all instituted for the recovery of wages, of which five were between master carpenters and jobbing carpenters, and one was preferred by a wood-cutter against a carpenter; in all awards were made in favour of the complainants, with suitable compensation for the time they had lost in preferring and substantiating their claims.

Mr. Acting Stipendiary Justice Sandiford's record contains eight cases. The first is a complaint preferred by a labourer against his manager, charging him with refusing to allow him to reap his ground provisions; the accused denied the charge, and was supported by evidence to the same effect. The complainant's statement was also corroborated by his reputed wife; and the case resulted in an order that he should be allowed to reap his crop unmolested.

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The second case was for the recovery of wages by a labourer against his employer, a planter, who produced a counter claim irrelevant to the question, and an award was made in favour of the complainant. The third is a complaint preferred by the manager of an estate against a labourer, charging him with destroying and removing certain boards, the property of complainant. The accused had no defence, and was ordered to make restitution. In the fourth case the complainant is a plantation labourer, who accuses the manager with detaining a bunch of plantains on suspicion that it was stolen; for which piece of officiousness he was reprimanded by the magistrate and ordered to restore the property. The next or fifth complaint in this record was instituted by three labourers who had recently purchased some lots of land, for the purpose of having an objectionable clause expunged from their bill of sale, whereby the seller had attempted to secure for himself a preference of their services whenever they might think fit to employ themselves as plantation labourers. The clause was accordingly cancelled as illegal. The sixth case is a complaint preferred by a labourer against his manager for the recovery of wages alleged to be due. The evidence proved that the complainant had received his wages, and the case was dismissed. The seventh case was for the recovery of wages between two carpenters, in which an award was made for the amount claimed. The last case in this record is a complaint preferred by a female labourer against the manager of an estate, charging him with not having fulfilled an agreement entered into for the hire of a boat. Claim admitted, and the case settled to the satisfaction of the complainant.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Heyland's record for the Georgetown district contains fifty-two cases, limited to inhabitants of the town and seamen in the harbour, but principally between artificers and tradespeople. Forty-nine of these are complaints preferred for the recovery of wages, of which fifteen were dismissed, parties not appearing; two were settled out of court, and the remainder variously adjusted according to the evidence. Of the remaining three cases, two were preferred by carpenters' apprenticed boys, charging their masters with ill-usage in point of food and clothing; of which one was disproved and dismissed, and in the other, which was partially substantiated, an award was made in favour of the complainant for the sum of two dollars. The last case is a complaint preferred by the proprietor of a sugar plantation, charging two labourers with having agreed to work for him and afterwards refusing to do so: case dismissed.

Respectfully submitted by

W. B. WOLSELEY, Circuit Stipendiary Magistrate.

No returns received to date from Messrs. Stipendiary Justices Strutt and Brittain.

W. B. WOLSELEY.

August 20th, 1841.

(No. 111.)

No. 29.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, August 21, 1841.

No. 29.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, with the exception of Mr. Brittain's not yet received, the stipendiary magistrates' half yearly reports as directed by your Lordship's Despatch, No. 191, date 22 April.

They are generally satisfactory, some of the returns assert, that while the mortality is less amongst the adults than formerly, it is greater amongst children.

This is very contrary to the experience of Dr. Smith and others, whose opinion is at variance with that expressed in the returns.

The opinions relative to the crops of this year, in comparison with the last are different, but most of the returns state that from the superior cultivation of this year, the crops of the next will be larger.

In every return will be seen the progressive improvement in the condition of the peasantry.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure 1, in No. 29.

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly Report, ending the 30th of June, 1841, from District A, in the County of Demerara.

Encl. 1, in No. 29.

No. I. General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,

the latter very numerous. There are in this district two churches and two schools under the presbyterian ministry, and the same number under the Wesleyan; the former are supported partly by a grant from the colony, and partly by the parents of the children educated; the latter principally by the emancipated classes themselves; the rate of mortality has been about one-third less since the dissolution of the apprenticeship; I do not consider that crime has increased either in frequency or atrocity, although more cases may have been brought to light.

No. II. Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,

Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates—to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

Hitherto the peasantry in this district have been provided with houses, or tenements by the proprietors rent free, as well as land, if they require it, to cultivate for their own profit. The progress of the labourers, in this district, in establishing themselves as freeholders, has not been very considerable; nor have there been any hamlets or villages erected, but many small cottages have been built by the peasantry on small pieces of land purchased by them, and these changes, in proportion to their extent, have tended to diminish the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

No. III. New Institutions,

As churches—schools—savings' banks—benefit societies, &c.

Since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, there have been two new chapels (used also as school-rooms) erected in this district under the Wesleyan ministry; the expense of which has been principally met by the peasantry; one of them cost 2,331 dollars.

There is only one estate in this district where there is a regular school, and that is supported by the proprietor. As yet, there are no savings' banks or benefit societies established in this district.

No. IV. State and Prospects of Cultivation,

Noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages—the produce of the last crop, and the promise of the next—the weather, &c.

The supply of labour in this district is not adequate to the demand by about one-third; the rate of wages is upon an average half a dollar per diem for five or six hours work; and many labourers are able to earn a dollar per day. There are 11 sugar estates in this district, and the produce of the last crop was—

1,608 hogsheads of sugar,	} The crop ending the 31st December, 1840.
59,409 gallons of molasses, and	
115,162 gallons of rum.	

The produce of the next crop is expected to be—

1,452 hogsheads of sugar,	} The crop ending the 31st December, 1841.
54,419 gallons of molasses, and	
99,112 gallons of rum.	

The estates on which cotton and coffee were formerly cultivated, are either abandoned or turned into cattle farms.

The weather has been very favourable for cultivation.

No. V. Improvements and Discoveries,

As, for instance, any new machine, by which labour is saved—any improved method of cultivation, and new manufacture, &c.

No improvements or discoveries of the above nature have been introduced into this district, since the dissolution of the apprenticeship.

No. VI. State of Internal Traffic.

Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

Internal traffic has greatly increased; three new stores have been opened in this district, since the dissolution of the apprenticeship; and the sort of goods most in demand are,—osnaburghs, salampores, checks, penistones, hats, bonnets, caps, shoes, hams, pork and beef, porter, beer, tobacco, butter, candles, soap, low priced linens, calicoes, and handkerchiefs of all sorts, loaf-sugar, crockery and tin ware, knives, forks, and glass of all kinds.

THOMAS COLEMAN,
Stipendiary Justice of the Peace.

BRITISH GUIANA

Enclosure 2, in No. 29.

Encl. 2, in No. 29.

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half Yearly Report, ending 30th day of June, 1841, from District Lower A. in the County of Demerara.

No. I. General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,

Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners—habits—or tastes—in the rate of mortality—or in the nature and frequency of offences.

A residence of six years in this part of British Guiana enables me to state that the peasantry, as a body, with reference to their general character and condition can boldly challenge comparison with the happiest and best paid labourers of the most fertile districts in England; a disinterested individual indeed, after the best and minutest enquiry into the opportunities and advantages possessed by the labourers at home and here, must without more than a moment's reflection decide that the latter are considerably the best off. The work of a labourer here is light,—the time occupied in its performance short,—and the remuneration high,—in England, the labourers' task is long and weary and its remuneration small; hundreds of labourers earn daily in my district their dollar or 4s. 2d. sterling each by 12 o'clock at noon, having no house rent to pay, with gratuitous schooling for their children, and when sick, medical attendance. The mower or reaper at home has to lag from sun-rise to sun-set and then thankfully receives 1s. 6d. or 2s. 6d.

Since the termination of the apprenticeship, the manners, habits, and tastes of the labourers have perceptibly improved,—they are more civil to, and confiding in, those in authority,—they know the laws to be strong for their protection, and that those laws when occasion requires, are zealously enforced; with advantages like these the habits of the labouring population are rapidly improving, civilization fast progressing, and I am bound to add crime *not* increasing.

No. II. Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,

Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates—to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

The labourers residing upon estates are provided with comfortable houses for which they pay no rent; their right of occupancy ceases however so soon as they cease to labour for the plantation; in the event of a labourer giving or receiving his discharge, sufficient time is allowed to the party quitting to remove his furniture, &c. with ease and convenience, and should he happen to have provisions growing in land previously apportioned to him, he is entitled to sell the same or to reap them as he thinks fit, and ample time is granted by the magistrate for them to arrive at perfection should he prefer reaping them when at maturity.

The labourers evince a great desire and are making great efforts to become small freeholders; half an acre of land amply gratifies their wants and wishes, and this quantity they can usually purchase in good situations for from 70 to 100 dollars, or, in other words, by the saving of six or nine months industry.

Small villages and hamlets are greatly on the increase, and the country along the public roads has assumed a degree of cheerfulness and contentment never before seen in the colony.

It was at one time thought (and I was of that opinion) that as the labourers became possessed of land so would the supply of labour on estates be diminished, not for a time but for a continuance; my experience has led me to a widely different conclusion; when a labourer first purchases a piece of land, he devotes all his energies for two or three months to build his house and plant his ground; this done he returns to work on the estate from whence he came or he seeks employment near his home. At this hour the Victoria proprietors turn out daily in gangs to the neighbouring plantations, and do more work than ever they did in the apprenticeship.

No. III. New Institutions,

As churches—schools—savings' banks—benefit societies, &c.

Mine being a rural district, I cannot report the existence of any savings' banks or benefit societies among us, but I have the pleasure to state that schools are increasing and churches and chapels building and enlarging; on nearly every plantation there is a school, and at intervals of four or five miles a church or chapel, and these on Sunday (I can testify) are crowded to excess.

The schoolmasters are for the most part hard working and unwearying and the clergymen pious, zealous, and exemplary.

In no colony under the British Crown are the religious advantages of the inhabitants greater than in this, and in no country I may add, are they more thankfully acknowledged and appreciated.

No. IV. State and Prospects of Cultivation.

its resources are unknown and its capability underrated. It may be considered visionary to state that this country could if it be supplied with agricultural labourers, yield to Great Britain all she can ever want of tropical productions, yet this is fact. Sugar, coffee, cotton, the rice of Africa and the east, the spices, dyes, and gums of India and Arabia, the tea of China, the tobacco of Virginia, all grow here with a healthiness, vigour, and increase, that cannot be surpassed in any quarter of the globe.

The wages paid for an ordinary day labour, vary from five to six bitts, or from 1s. 9d. to 2s. 2d. English; the task for which this sum is paid is usually finished by 12 o'clock at noon; hundreds of labourers then do what is called extra work, for which they get paid in proportion to the quantity done.

The sugar cultivation suffered much during the last long rainy season and the canes now being cut yield badly; there will be however a great quantity of sugar made here during the last five months of the year, the canes coming in at that time not having been injured to the extent or by the circumstances before quoted.

No. V. Improvements and Discoveries,

As, for instance, any new machine, by which labour is saved—any improved method of cultivation, and new manufacture, &c.

Six years ago there was only one cane carrier and megass elevator in my district, now however every plantation possesses one or both, thus the hardest kind of work imposed upon the labourer formerly, is now performed by machinery, and the hands then so employed are rendered now available in the cane-field.

I know of no recent improvement in the method of cultivation but it seems to me to be in many ways capable of great improvement; as labour becomes scarce or dear so will the inventive genius of man from time to time supply the deficiency by machinery.

No. VI. State of Internal Traffic,

Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

As the peasantry progress in civilization so do their wants, whether real or artificial, multiply and accumulate. I remember the time when there was no store or shop in my district. The labourer wore the clothing supplied to him and eat the food issued to him by his master; now there are respectable shops established in the neighbourhood of every estate, and from these the labourer from time to time purchases for himself and family a supply of European clothing, boots, shoes, &c., and also his porter, beer, hams, bacon, soap, candles, &c. &c.; four-fifths of these articles he never saw or heard of in the days of slavery, but they have now become actual wants, and to supply these wants he and his offspring are led to the willing pursuit of habits of industry.

Witness my hand this 30th day of June, 1841.

C. H. STRUTT,

Stipendiary Magistrate.

Enclosure 3, in No. 29.

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half Yearly Report, ending the 30th June, 1841, from District B, in the County of Demerara. Encl. 3, in No. 29.

No. I. General Character und Condition of the Peasantry,

Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners—habits—or tastes—in the rate of mortality—or in the nature and frequency of offences.

That they appear more inclined to good order and industry.

Their habits and tastes are similar to what they were during the apprenticeship.

The mortality has not been so great.

Petty offences committed among themselves, such as assaults, stealing considerably on the decline.

No. II. Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,

Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates—to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

In this district I know of no tenancy. The progress of establishing is on the increase. There is only one hamlet raising up Christiani's burgh; as yet it has had no effect whatever upon the supply of labour for the cultivation or staple produce of the colony.

No. III. New Institutions,

As churches—schools—savings' banks—benefit societies, &c.

The parish church of St. Paul's is repairing, has been new paved and much enlarged by an addition of two wings. Chapel of ease to the above at Plantation Friendship. A London

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BRITISH GUIANA missionary with a boys' and girls' school on Plantation Montrose, London Missionary chapel erected this year on Plantation Limynan.

No. IV. State and Prospects of Cultivation,

Noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages—the produce of the last crop, and the promise of the next—the weather, &c.

The supply of labour has been more regular than heretofore.

And the rate of wages from 40 to 50 cents. per day according to the work.

The produce of the last crop was a fair average crop, promises to be good, the weather favourable.

No. V. Improvements and Discoveries,

As, for instance, any new machine, by which labour is saved—any improved method of cultivation, and new manufacture, &c.

There are two new machines in progress, one for the excavation of canals or trenches and one for the carriage of dry megass, by which it is hoped much manual labour will be saved.

No improved method of cultivation has taken place, or any new manufacture.

No. VI. State of Internal Traffic,

Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

The goods, dry goods, such as Manchester stuffs, pork, salt fish, &c.

A. M. LYONS,

30th June, 1841.

Stipendiary Magistrate, District B.

Enclosure 4, in No. 29.

Encl. 4, in No. 29. **STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half Yearly Report, ending 1st July, 1841, from District C, in the county of Demerara.**

No. I. General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,

Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners, habits—or tastes—in the rate of mortality—or in the nature and frequency of offences.

Manners more free, yet particularly obedient to the constituted authorities, with a perfect reliance on them; taste for display, and the luxuries of life increased, hospitable and kind. Population on the increase. Offences chiefly assaults of an ordinary character; some few robberies of dwelling houses and stores, and petty thefts, shoplifting, &c.

No. II.—Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,

Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates—to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

Labourers, chiefly tenants at will, provided with rooms or parts of cottages by the proprietors rent free, with medical attendance, as part condition of their wages. A new town, called Freeburg, has arisen in one of the suburbs of the capital, Georgetown, which has in some measure affected the continuous supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple commodity on the neighbouring estates; yet many labourers work on the near estates to town from it—though this supply of labour is not regular or to be relied on.

No. III.—New Institutions,

As churches—schools—saving' banks—benefit societies, &c.

A savings' bank has been established.

NOTE.—The only savings' bank is that in Georgetown, established by ordinance, dated 1st March, 1828. The deposits at the present time amount to a little more than 5,000*l.* sterling, and have not varied to any extent for the last three years.

W. B. WOLSELEY.

No. IV.—State and prospects of Cultivation,

Noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages—the produce of the last crop, and the promise of the next—the weather, &c.

Supply of labour limited, but gradually increasing by means of immigration. Rate of wages, one third of a dollar for a task of seven and a half hours, frequently concluded in four, an industrious person easily earning half a dollar per diem. Last crop, the best since the termination of the apprenticeship. The present crop expected not to reach the amount of the last. Weather most propitious.

No. V.—Improvements and Discoveries.

BRITISH GUIANA

As, for instance, any new machine, by which labour is saved—any improved method of cultivation, and new manufacture, &c.

A steam excavator, for the purpose of clearing the smaller navigable canals.

No. VI.—State of Internal Traffic,

Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

The coarser kinds of Manchester manufactures, salted provisions of all kinds, leather manufactures, and ready made clothing of all kinds.

W. J. SANDIFORD,

Stipendiary Justice of the Peace, District C.

Enclosure 5, in No. 29.

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half Yearly Report, ending 30th June, 1841, from District D, in the county of Demerara. Encl. 5, in No. 29.

No. I.—General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,

Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners—habits—or tastes—in the rate of mortality—or in the nature and frequency of offences.

An improvement has certainly taken place in their habits, manners, and tastes; they have become acquainted with their rights as freemen, and are tenacious on that head. They attend public worship with regularity, and are anxious regarding the education of their children. With advanced means, their desire to obtain the comforts and luxuries, with which they observe those they look upon as their superiors surrounded, has increased. The obligation of an oath is not fully understood; although of direct perjury they are rarely guilty, yet they often endeavour to mislead by partial statements, &c. Marriages are frequent; but its obligations are not always regarded—the example of the higher classes is not calculated to raise the tone of morality in this respect. It is the general opinion that the rate of mortality has decreased. The offences of petty theft, and trivial assaults are frequent.

No. II.—Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,

Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates—to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

The cottages on estates are occupied upon conditions of service; the right of occupancy may be brought to a termination at any time by either master or servant. This has led many labourers to establish themselves on freeholds, &c., and to the rising up of hamlets and villages, of which there are three in this district, and each is increasing in extent and population. The supply of labour for the cultivation of the staples is diminished by these means; it is hoped, however, that the gap thus made will be filled up by means of immigration. I would not be understood to say that all persons so establishing themselves have ceased to employ themselves on estates; but the subordinate members of their families have.

No. III.—New Institutions,

As churches—schools—savings' banks—benefit societies, &c.

There are in this district two established churches, and one London mission.

Four schools are under the superintendence of the established clergy and one under the minister of the mission.

There are also two other schools, one under the superintendence of an Independent minister, and the other of the Mico charity.

There are no savings' banks or benefit societies of any description.

No. IV.—State and Prospects of Cultivation,

Noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages—the produce of the last crop, and the promise of the next—the weather, &c.

The supply of labour is greatly deficient; the wages are high. A labourer may earn half a dollar a day with ease, in addition to lodging and medical attendance.

The produce of last year's crop equalled the expectation of the planter, and this year's sugar crop promises on many estates to exceed the last.

The coffee crops have not been favourable, nor, is the prospect of the next cheering, the weather having been too heavy for this cultivation, although favourable for that of the sugar cane.

BRITISH GUIANA

No. V.—Improvements and Discoveries,

As, for instance, any new machine, by which labour is saved—any improved method of cultivation, and new manufacture, &c.

There have been no improvements or discoveries of importance since the close of the apprenticeship.

The labour in preparing coffee has been lightened by adapting a part of the machinery, hitherto used solely for pulping, to the process of peeling also; the latter, until recently, having been performed by a separate machine.

No. VI.—State of Internal Traffic,

Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

Portuguese immigrants, as hucksters, nearly monopolise the country traffic. Cotton goods are most in demand. The demand for salt provisions, rice, &c., and malt liquors is considerable. The head men of estates often hold supplies of such articles, and dispose of them by retail.

K. HEYLAND,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

Enclosure 6, in No. 29.

Encl. 6, in No. 29. STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half Yearly Report, ending 30th June, 1841, from District E, in the County of Demerara.

No. I.—General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,

Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners—habits—or tastes—in the rate of mortality—or in the nature and frequency of offences.

A very considerable change has taken place in the character and condition of the peasantry since the dissolution of the apprenticeship. There has been a rapid advance in civilization, and in the habits of civilized life. Religious instruction has produced its anticipated effects, and caused an improvement in morality, a greater purity in domestic life, and a strong desire for education. I am not in possession of such facts as would warrant a positive assertion as to the rate of mortality, but the result of my enquiries leads to the opinion, that while there has been no diminution in the rate of mortality among adults, there has been an increase of mortality among children. This has been ascribed to the want of that constant care and watchful medical supervision which prevailed during slavery and apprenticeship. Common assaults and petty thefts are frequent, but offences of a more serious nature of rare occurrence.

No. II.—Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,

Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates—to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

Labourers on estates are not tenants. Though living on an estate, and occupying gratuitously, houses belonging to it, they are to all intents and purposes, day labourers. There are no contracts or engagements of any kind. The occupancy of a house is given in the hope of thereby obtaining continuous labour—a hope seldom realized. There is a general desire on the part of the labourers to establish themselves as freeholders. Several have left this district for the purpose, and a few have established themselves in the front of Plantation Den Amstel, where a small hamlet has been formed, and three or four at Plantation Vrees en Hoop. These changes have had the effect of seriously diminishing the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

No. III.—New Institutions,

As churches—schools—savings' banks—benefit societies, &c.

In this district and within a distance of 20 miles there are (including the parish church of St. Swithin), six places of worship. A church and two chapels are in communion with the Church of England. Two churches or chapels are in connection with the London Missionary Society, and one church (parish of St. Luke), in communion with the Church of Scotland. Schools are attached to each of these places of worship, and there is also a school at Plantation Leonora, under the supervision of the minister of St. Luke. There are no savings' banks or benefit societies.

No. IV.—State and Prospects of Cultivation,

Noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages—the produce of the last crop, and the promise of the next—the weather, &c.

Cultivation has been greatly reduced since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, but the supply of labour is insufficient for the diminished cultivation. The rate of wages for field work varies from five to six bitts for a task which can generally be finished in 5 or 6 hours of assiduous industry. The crop of last year was, I believe, less than that of the preceding,

and the crop of this year holds out little promise of amendment, though task gangs have been employed on two estates. The weather has been generally favourable, though rather too wet latterly. BRITISH GUIANA

No. V.—Improvements and Discoveries,

As, for instance, any new machine, by which labour is saved—any improved method of cultivation, and new manufacture, &c.

The plough has been introduced on some estates with advantage, but has not been generally adopted; nor has any improved method of cultivation or new manufacture been established.

No. VI.—State of Internal Traffic,

Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

There is little internal traffic. The articles most in demand at the stores are articles of dress, salt provisions, gin, and malt liquors.

J. O. LOCKHART MURE,

Stipendiary Justice of the Peace, District E.

Enclosure 7, in No. 29.

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-yearly Report, ending 30th June, 1841, from District F. in the County of Essequibo. Encl. 7, in No. 29.

No. I.—General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,

Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners—habits—or tastes—in the rate of mortality—or in the nature and frequency of offences.

The great bulk of the peasantry in this district are negroes, about four-fifths creoles and one fifth Africans: the former are, generally speaking, a volatile race, much given to their pleasures and amusements, and but rarely inclined to labour beyond earning the means to procure their immediate wants and gratifications: the latter are generally more industrious and steady in their habits. Since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, they imitate the manners of their superiors, or at least attempt to do so. Their habits for some time, as might have been expected, became more unsettled, but of late they have shown every disposition to more steadiness. A very large majority of them are regular in their attendance at church, and appear to respect religious rites. They have a taste for finery in dress, even to extravagance, and for good living; and I fear they are acquiring an unfortunate propensity to the use of ardent spirits. The rate of mortality has considerably decreased, and the married state is already preferred, in the majority of cases, to that promiscuous intercourse of the sexes which formerly existed. The chief offences committed by them, and even these not frequently, have been petty thefts and assaults among themselves.

No. II.—Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,

Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates—to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

The peasantry are generally found by the proprietary body with cottages, provision grounds, medicine and medical attendance, free of charge, with money wages to effective labourers varying from 1s. 6d. to 2s. sterling per diem for field labour. The industrious portion of them live very comfortably and save money. Several of this class are establishing themselves as freeholders, and three villages of such are being established in this district on the plantations. The supply of labour from such freeholders for the staple produce of the colony is comparatively trifling, as they generally prefer either employing their time on their own freeholds in raising provisions, or in jobbing work unconnected, or at least directly unconnected, with agricultural labour in raising the staple productions. The system, however, is as yet but in its infancy, and although, from the novelty of it, and the quantity of labour absolutely necessary to be bestowed upon their newly acquired plots of ground at the outset, the change may be adverse in the meantime to the production of the export staples of the colony, general beneficial results may be looked for ultimately from it.

No. III.—New Institutions,

As churches—schools—savings' banks—benefit societies, &c.

A new church of the Episcopalian order is being established in the district, and another of the Presbyterian form is being subscribed for, there being already two parish churches besides five small chapels in the district; there are also two parish schools, one missionary school, and three kept up by individual proprietors. There are not as yet either savings' banks nor benefit societies established, although a prospectus for one of the latter is now in course of receiving subscribers to it.

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No. IV.—State and Prospects of Cultivation,

Noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages—the produce of the last crop, and the promise of the next—the weather, &c.

The prospects of cultivation are improving as compared with the last two years; the supply of labour compared to the capabilities of the district is miserably defective; the rate of wages for what is considered a seven hours' task in agricultural work, varies from 1s. 6d. to 2s. sterling, but this money is generally earned in from four to five hours' continuous labour, and it is a very common occurrence for an effective labourer to earn a dollar, or 4s. 2d. sterling, in one day. The last crop of this district did not, I understand, exceed one-half the average crop for seven years previous to the termination of the apprenticeship, and the crop of this year promises to be almost equally short; but the prospect is much better for next year, several proprietors having lately not only improved the state of drainage, &c., on estates, but also resumed the cultivation of fields which had been abandoned within the last three years. The weather upon the whole has been seasonable and favourable.

No. V.—Improvements and Discoveries,

As, for instance, any new machine, by which labour is saved—any improved method of cultivation, and new manufacture, &c.

An excavator for the excavation of canals and trenches, and a machine for ploughing, harrowing, &c., by steam-power, have been invented and put in operation, but neither have as yet been so far perfected as to become profitable in operation.

No. VI.—State of Internal Traffic,

Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

The principal traffic in the district is in the shipment and sale of produce, the sale of goods to the inhabitants, and the furnishing supplies to the estates; the goods most in demand for the use of the peasantry are articles of clothing, finery, eatables and drinkables.

D. MACLENNAN,

Stipendiary Magistrate, District F.

Enclosure 8, in No. 29.

Encl. 8, in No. 29. STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-yearly Report, ending 30th June, 1841, from District G, in the County of Essequibo.

No. I.—General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,

Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners—habits—or tastes—in the rate of mortality—or in the nature and frequency of offences.

The general character of the peasantry is orderly, and they are generally employed in agricultural pursuits, or as carpenters, boat-builders, and other handicraft work. Their condition is extremely good, being able generally to perform what is considered a day's labour in about three or four hours. Their manners have improved since the apprenticeship. They are addicted to hunting, fishing, and dancing. They have displayed more taste for dress, and their houses are better furnished. There is no record, either public or private, by which the rate of mortality can be ascertained. The offences consist chiefly of assaults and thefts. They have become much more frequent, and some of greater enormity have occurred.

No. II.—Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,

Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates—to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

They are allowed their houses, and as much ground as they choose to cultivate, without paying any rent, if employed on estates. Many have established themselves as freeholders, and several new hamlets and villages are rising up, the effect of which has been to reduce the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony, and which, in the opinion of the reporter, can never be kept up but by under-draining the land, and the general use of agricultural implements, horses, mules, or oxen. The prisoners sentenced to hard labour might be well employed within the walls of the different jails in making tiles for this purpose, the jails being generally placed on clay soils, and the proceeds arising therefrom might be applied towards defraying the expenses of the jails.

No. III.—New Institutions,

As churches—schools—savings' banks—benefit societies, &c.

There have been two new churches and one Wesleyan chapel lately erected in this district. There are two public schools, supported by the colony, at which 115 scholars are educated;

one by the Mico charity, at which 210 scholars are educated; one conducted by the Wesleyan minister, at which 84 scholars are educated. There are no savings' banks, nor any benefit societies. BRITISH GUIANA

No. IV.—State and Prospects of Cultivation,

Noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages—the produce of the last crop, and the promise of the next—the weather, &c.

The extent of cultivation is very much reduced, and a great deal of land has been abandoned. The supply of labour is also very much reduced, and wages are high in proportion. Many able-bodied men are enabled to perform what is commonly considered three full days' work in one day, and will consequently earn a dollar and upwards by a day's labour. The produce of last year's crop was 4,462,790 lbs. sugar, 143,844 gallons rum, 163,133 gallons molasses. It can scarcely be expected that the present year's crop will be equal to the last. The weather has been exceedingly favourable.

No. 5.—Improvements and Discoveries,

As, for instance, any new machine, by which labour is saved—any improved method of cultivation, and new manufacture, &c.

Ploughs have been introduced in a few instances, by which a considerable saving of human labour is effected, but the open drains by which the cultivated lands are intersected offer an almost insurmountable impediment to the general use of agricultural implements, and can only be obviated by under-draining, and no material improvement can take place in the method of cultivation until this is adopted. A brick-kiln has been established on one estate in this district, at which bricks, flooring-tiles, draining-tiles, &c., are made, of good quality. The clay of the district is generally well adapted for that purpose.

No. VI.—State of Internal Traffic,

Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

A great number of new shops have been established. The articles most in demand are clothing, cotton goods, salt provisions, wine, ale, porter, brandy, gin, liquors of various kinds, jewellery, boots and shoes, carpenters' tools, and agricultural implements, which are generally paid for in ready money, and which the peasantry are well able to do.

M. L. FOWLER, Stipendiary Magistrate, District G,
County of Essequibo.

1st July, 1841.

Enclosure 9, in No. 29.

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-yearly Report, ending 30th June, 1841, from District H, in the County of Essequibo. Encl. 9, in No. 29.

No. I.—General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,

Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners—habits—or tastes—in the rate of mortality—or in the nature and frequency of offences.

In this district the labourers have much improved in their general conduct since the apprenticeship. They are civil, orderly, and obedient to the laws of the colony. Their tastes consist in dress, having a well-furnished house, and in possessing the minor comforts of their employers. The rate of mortality has not been so great amongst the adult population as amongst the young children. This mortality is attributable to the negligence of the parents in not giving their offspring timely medical aid, and in many instances not abiding by the directions of the medical practitioner. Petty thefts and breaches of the peace are the offences of the most frequent nature.

No. II.—Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,

Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates—to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

On every estate in this district each family has the occupancy of a comfortable cottage, with as much provision-ground as they choose to cultivate, either attached to the cottage or at a short distance from it, for which they pay no rent. As long as this family labours for the plantation, no ejectment from land or building ever takes place; and in the event of a discontinuance of labour, or voluntary removal, the labourer has the right either to dispose of the provisions in the ground, or of transporting them, if in a state of maturity, to another plantation.

Great progress has of late been made by some of the labourers of four estates in this district in establishing themselves as freeholders upon leased land in front of Plantation Fearnot, the property of Messrs. Daniels, of Bristol. New hamlets are daily rising up. A store has been erected, and there is every prospect of this place soon becoming a village. These changes abstract labour from the estate, insomuch that it is observable the best and most efficient labourers are those who most frequently become proprietors of the soil, and who take their families with them to work the land they may have purchased.

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No. III.—New Institutions,

As churches—schools—savings' banks—benefit societies, &c.

A new church has been built at Plantation Hampton Court.

Plantation Devonshire Castle, Richmond, Anna Regina, and Affianoe, have private schools. There are also three public schools, supported by the colony. A benefit society was established during the apprenticeship, but within the last two years the labourers have ceased to become subscribers, though a large fund still exists. Small sums are distributed to the subscribers during sickness. There is no savings' bank in this district.

No. IV.—State and Prospects of Cultivation,

Noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages—the produce of the last crop, and the promise of the next—the weather, &c.

Labour is much required. Within the last six months about 250 agriculturists have located themselves upon some of the estates in this district. The labourers, as a body, work steadily, though in some plantations several of the women have retired from field labour. The number of hogsheads of sugar manufactured last year was 4888.

It is generally supposed there will be a decrease in the ensuing sugar crop of about one-fourth of that of 1840, owing to three causes. Firstly, to the heavy wet season in the beginning of the year 1840. Secondly, to the premature reaping of the sugar-cane during the period at which produce was so high. And, thirdly, to the neglect of the planter in not attending to the cultivation of the cane-field during the golden harvest of last year. The rate of wages varies from 1s. 6d. to 2s. for the performance of about five hours labour. The weather is very favourable for the sugar cultivation.

No. V.—Improvements and Discoveries,

As, for instance, any new machine, by which labour is saved—any improved method of cultivation, and new manufacture, &c.

The plough, the grand saving of manual labour, has been introduced into this district with considerable success, and there is every probability in the course of a very short time it will be generally used.

No. VI.—State of Internal Traffic,

Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

The internal traffic is considered to be much on the increase. Cotton goods, silks, wearing apparel, millinery, salt provisions, flour, malt liquors, spirituous liquors, and wines, are much in demand.

WALTER HOWARD WARE,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

Enclosure 10, in No. 29.

Encl. 10, in No. 29. STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly Report, ending 30th June, 1841, from District I., in the County of Berbice.

No. I. General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,

Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners—habits—or tastes—in the rate of mortality—or in the nature and frequency of offences.

Since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, there is an improvement in their manners. With few exceptions they regularly attend religious worship on the Sabbath and holy days, intermarry, and are becoming, on the whole, more steady and resolute. However, in general they might display more industry.

Habits have in many respects undergone a gradual change for the better.

Tastes. As by degrees they are advancing in civilization, their tastes are for dress, shown in fineries, and other luxuries of life, hardly anything excepted.

Mortality, as to the report of the medical practitioner, is much less amongst adults than during the apprenticeship; but with regard to children, there is a presumption that more have died since, than during the above period.

Offences (grave) are, in general, much diminishing, and gradually becoming less frequent. Petty thefts, and occasional assaults and fights, take place from time to time amongst some of the dissolute, similar to that in all other communities.

No. II. Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,

Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates—to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

As old prejudices are on the wane, and gradually the relations between the peasantry and

the planters are developing, a great deal of former heartburnings have disappeared and made **BRITISH GUIANA** way to conciliation.

The cottages on the estates, occupied rent free by the labourers, are good, comfortable, and have some inclosed ground behind for a garden. Nevertheless, such of the peasantry that possess the means purchase individually plots of land, or collectively parts of abandoned cotton estates, of which there are a great many on this coast, erect their own dwellings, cultivate their provision grounds, and form settlements, of which there are some rising into villages and hamlets at present. As this proceeds, the estates are by far not so well and regularly supplied with labour required for the support of the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony, and as such, amongst others, is thrown back; but it is reasonably expected, that when once established to their wishes, they will devote at least the seven hours and a half daily regularly to the estates for the five days of the week, as invariably they take the Saturdays for themselves, either to work their own provision grounds, fishing, or otherwise. The following villages and hamlets are forming:—

Richfield, consisting of twenty cottages.	
St. John, „	thirty ditto.
Golden Grove, „	thirty ditto.
No. 28, „	six ditto.
No. 29 and 30, „	ten ditto.
Firebrace, „	five ditto.
No. 12, „	five ditto.
No 8, „	five ditto.

No. III. New Institutions,

As churches—schools—savings' banks—benefit societies, &c.

Savings' banks and benefit societies, &c., are not in district I. There is a savings bank in New Amsterdam for the benefit of all the labourers in this county.

There are two English churches.
 „ two Missionary chapels.
 „ four schools.

No. IV. State and Prospects of Cultivation,

Noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages—the produce of the last crop and the promise of the next—the weather, &c.

Supply of labour of all kinds is by far inadequate to the general demand, and it is on that account that the progress of the staple produce is so much impeded. The wages of the labourers are very liberal; one guilden, or 33 cents. of a dollar, for seven hours and a half, which is, in general, performed in four hours' assiduous work. If inclined, many might finish the double quantity in the field, which would prove a great benefit to both parties, that of double wages and the improvement of the cane cultivation. When grinding, cane-cutters can earn from 67 cents to one dollar a day; the boiler-men and punt-men 50 cents per day, and if the first are kept late, they are paid for extra labour in proportion to the time employed.

District I, though 28 miles in extent, has no more in all than seven sugar estates, which have produced last year, and may be expected to yield the present year, in the following ratio, by a due performance of proportionate labour:—

	Last Year, 1840.			Expected this Year.
	Hhds.	Tierces.	Barrels.	
Plantation Cotton Tree .	70	106	7½	The same quantity, and more by favourable weather.
Plantation Woodley Park. . .	..	89	..	Made up to ult. July 71 tierces; from 30 to 40 tierces more.
Plantation Waterloo . . .	..	170	..	150 tierces this year.
Plantation Hope and Experiment.	230	200	..	No more than last year.
Plantation No. 17 (new estate).	50	..	..	Made 165 to date; the rest depends on the working of the labourers.
Plantation Foulis . . .	260	..	..	100 hogsheads, solely owing to the enormous loss of labour by the unfortunate visitation of the small pox.
Plantation Profit . . .	22	..	..	Made 23 hogsheads to date; expects 50 or 55 hogsheads more, but depends on the labour.

Weather has been favourable to the growth of canes until date.

No. V. Improvements and Discoveries,

As, for instance, any new machine, by which labour is saved—any improved method of cultivation, and new manufacture, &c.

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No. VI. State of Internal Traffic,

Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

Nothing hardly can be excepted, in the provision line, as well as in the best and most expensive articles of wearing apparel for both sexes, trinkets, jewellery, and other luxuries.

A. VAN RYCK-DE-GROOT, Stipendiary Magistrate, District I.

Office of Stipendiary Magistrate, District I, county Berbice,
30th June, 1841.

Enclosure 11, in No. 29.

Encl. 11, in No. 29. STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly Report, ending 30th June, 1841, from District K, in the County of Berbice.

No. I. General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,

Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners—habits—or tastes—in the rate of mortality—or in the nature and frequency of offences.

In a domestic point of view, the condition of the peasantry is very much improved. A better description of house is required, greater attention is paid to cleanliness and comfort, marriage is becoming general, children more regular in their attendance at school, and the deportment of all in the different places of worship is most orderly. The last census shows a decrease of population; in this district there is an increase.

In this county only one person has been tried by the Supreme Court in the last six months, and few cases have been brought before the inferior Criminal Court during the same period.

No. II. Relations between the Peasantry and Proprietors,

Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates—to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

The labourers on estates must be considered as tenants at will. The greatest anxiety is manifested amongst them to become freeholders, and whenever an eligible opportunity of purchasing land offers, it is seized on with avidity.

No village has been established, as yet, in this district; but many houses have been built on land purchased by the peasantry. Persons thus establishing themselves have devoted much of their time in preparing their cottages and cultivating their provision grounds, and have only worked on the neighbouring estates when necessitated to do so.

No. III. New Institutions,

As churches—schools—savings' banks—benefit societies, &c.

Churches, schools, benefit societies, and a savings' bank, are within the reach of all in this district. Every opportunity of obtaining moral and religious instruction is afforded.

No. IV. State and Prospects of Cultivation,

Noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages—the produce of the last crop and the promise of the next—the weather, &c.

The supply of labour is as good, if not better, than in any other district; but it is still inadequate. The rate of wages varies from 33 to 50 cents., according to the description of work required to be performed. Task-work is generally adopted, and as the task is moderate, a labourer, if he exerts himself, can make a dollar a-day; in trenching he can make more.

The weather has been favourable. The amount of this crop will be about the same as last year.

No. V. Improvements and Discoveries,

As, for instance, any new machine, by which labour is saved—any improved method of cultivation, and new manufacture, &c.

No machine has been introduced in the last six months.

The cane carrier and the megass elevator have been employed with the greatest success, and are now to be found on every sugar estate in the colony.

They have relieved the labourer from the heaviest and most disagreeable labour of a sugar estate, and have reduced the number of persons employed about the buildings nearly one-third.

No. VI. State of Internal Traffic,

Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

Provisions, dry goods, and every article of clothing.

J. M'LEOD, Stipendiary Magistrate, K District.

Enclosure 12, in No. 29,

BRITISH GUIANA

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly Report, ending 30th of June, 1841, from District L, in the County of Berbice.

Encl. 12, in No. 29.

No. I. General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,

Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners—habits—or tastes—in the rate of morality—or in the nature and frequency of offences.

The general character of the peasantry is highly creditable and commendable, and their condition is excellent. Generally their manners and domestic habits are not perceptibly improved.

Their houses are better furnished, yet but little regard is paid to cleanliness. They have a great taste for dress, and in too many instances carry this to an extravagant excess.

The rate of mortality from ordinary diseases has been about two per cent.; but a number have died from small-pox during the past half year. This disorder has, happily, ceased.

The nature of their offences consists of petty thefts and common assaults; these are, however, very unfrequent. No peasantry in the world are so free from offences as these people.

No. II. Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,

Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates—to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

The relations between the peasantry and the proprietors is a perfect independence on the part of the people of their employers, owing to the supply of labour being so inadequate to the demand.

The peasantry on estates are averse to any contract of occupancy, and may, therefore, be said to be tenants-at-will only.

Great progress has been made in establishing themselves as freeholders. They have commenced several hamlets and villages, not less than 11 in this district. The effect which these changes have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of this district, has been decidedly to diminish that supply for the present; but I am of opinion that ultimately it will be a great advantage to the country, inasmuch as it will secure for the cultivation of the staple products a class of labourers more settled and disposed to continuous work.

No. III. New Institutions,

As churches—schools—savings' banks—benefit societies, &c.

The new institutions are two churches of the establishment of Scotland, two chapels of the London Missionary Society, one parish school at Mara, two estate schools, and one Missionary school.

There is a Government savings' bank for the county, but not much resorted to by the peasantry of this district.

No. IV. State and Prospects of Cultivation,

Noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages—the produce of the last crop, and the promise of the next—the weather, &c.

The supply of labour on the sugar estates is far short of the demand. On some of the coffee estates it appears to me a greater number of people are kept than necessary. Where sugar and coffee estates are near to each other, which is the case in this district, great benefit would arise by mutual assistance being rendered in getting in the crops; but a jealousy prevails between these cultivators of the great staples of the colony which prevents this accommodation.

The rate of wages is nine dollars a month continuous labour for a daily task that is finished in about four hours. The other advantages are considerable, but as these vary on different properties, it would be next to impossible to put a money value upon them. On some estates, in addition to their cottages and provision grounds, the peasantry receive gratuitously fish, plantains, salt pork, and rice.

I have not been able to ascertain the produce of the last crop of sugar. The weather has been particularly unfavourable for the last crop of coffee, which does not average a fifth of the usual crop.

The promise of the next crop in this district, both as regards sugar and coffee, will be short. The weather has been highly favourable to sugar cultivation, and very unfavourable to that of coffee; consequently on sugar estates advantage has been taken of this favourable weather in putting the cane cultivation in order to the fullest extent of their means, and no doubt a considerable increase may be expected in the succeeding crop.

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No. V. Improvements and Discoveries,

As, for instance, any new machine by which labour is saved—any improved method of cultivation, and new manufacture, &c.

No improvements or discoveries in machinery, &c., since the termination of the apprenticeship.

No. VI. State of Internal Traffic,

Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

At present there is but little internal traffic. The timber trade, which is now commencing, will ultimately augment it.

CHARLES R. WHINFIELD, Stipendiary Magistrate, District L.

Enclosure 13, in No. 29.

Encl. 13, in No. 29. STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half Yearly Report, ending 30th June, 1841, from District M in the county of Berbice.

No. 1.—General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,

Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners—habits—or tastes—in the rate of mortality—or in the nature and frequency of offences.

The general character of the peasantry is good, and their condition favourable; their manners since the dissolution of the apprenticeship have perceptibly improved; their habits have become more steady, and the desire for better food, clothing, and house accommodation very decided; the ties and obligations likewise of marriage are gradually obtaining increased importance, with the reciprocal duties of parent and child.

The mortality among the young children has materially diminished, the due supply of their natural food being no longer withheld for a portion of the day, as was the case when the mothers worked at a distance in the field.

The too free use of spirituous liquors (a habit engendered by the system of stimulating labour by drams), has led to the premature death of many adults. On two estates the small pox has made great ravages, though chiefly among the aged and less robust.

Offences of a serious kind are, and have been, exceedingly rare. The frequency of petty thefts seems to have diminished; but quarrels and assaults among each other, have probably augmented, an evil which will no doubt be checked by the rapid progress of religious, moral, and useful instruction.

No. II.—Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,

Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates—to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

The tenancy on estates is very indefinite. In some places many of the labourers' houses have been erected either wholly or in part by themselves. The custom of paying rent does not exist anywhere. There is no law with regard to ejectments. Arbitrary or vexatious ones have seldom occurred.

The desire of the labourers to establish themselves as freeholders is becoming general, but in this district about 100 only have been able as yet to accomplish it, there having been few opportunities of purchasing land in the vicinity of sugar estates, which has been regarded as a desideratum in their eyes; whilst some proprietors have been unwilling, and a few attorneys or curators unable to dispose of land.

One village (Fyrish) and three hamlets (Cumberland, Sheet Anchor, and Prospect), are on the increase; these however have had hitherto little effect in diminishing the cultivation of the staples of the colony, as most of the freeholders or their wives, bestow a portion of their labour on the adjoining plantations.

No. III.—New Institutions,

As churches—schools—savings' banks—benefit societies, &c.

A new Episcopalian church is in progress for the benefit of the labourers on the isolated estates, "Skeldon," and "Eliza and Mary" on the Courantyne river. The chapel at Albion, in connection with the London Missionary Society, is being greatly enlarged. All the churches and chapels in the district, and more especially the church of St. Patrick, and chapel at Albion, have numerous and attentive congregations.

There are nine schools, with licensed teachers to each, all well attended, under the superintendence of the Episcopalian, Presbyterian, or London Missionary ministers. The general progress of the young is highly creditable to those by whom their education is conducted.

There is only one savings' bank in the county of Berbice, that in the town of New Amsterdam. The labourers in the rural districts, have therefore availed themselves to a very limited extent of so valuable an institution.

A benefit society has been established by each of the four clergymen in the district, among

their respective congregations. Much good has in consequence already resulted, which cannot fail to become, from day to day, more widely diffused. The benefit society established by the indefatigable rector of St. Patrick, has materially tended to the promotion of industry, temperance and good order, in that section of the district.

No. IV.—State and Prospects of Cultivation,

Noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages—the produce of the last crop, and the promise of the next—the weather, &c.

The supply of labour on the coast estates, has, in most instances been equal to the demand. Continuous labour rather than an augmentation of hands, seems chiefly desired. The rate of wages is one guilder, or 1s. 4d. sterling for a task fixed by a committee of planters in 1834, as a day's work of 7½ hours. Where the quality of the work is not much insisted on, two of these tasks may be performed in the day. An advanced ratio is usually paid for work beyond the first task. During the apprenticeship the 7½ hours task or tariff, was estimated by the planters as worth to them three guilders, exclusive of food, clothing, medical attendance, and house room, &c., as will be apparent on reference to the appraisements of the services of labourers, which took place during that period. Persons likewise having task gangs, hired them out at three to four guilders per head, besides the above allowances, and at a time when sugar was at a much lower rate than since the era of freedom. The profits of proprietors have been much lessened since 1838, by the conversion of the hovels of the people into comfortable cottages; an outlay chiefly temporary. The industrious cultivation by the labourers of their own provision grounds, enables them, with the aid of their wages, comfortably to maintain themselves and families.

The produce of last year's crop on a number of the estates, was highly satisfactory, (*Vide* documents annexed, marked A.) Several of the coast estates suffered by an unusually wet season, with defective drainage; others by casualties in their machinery, and one by accidental fire. The promise of this year's crop is very flattering, and will not fall short of that of 1840.

The weather for a long time past, has been of the most favourable kind, and the result will be manifest throughout the colony in the produce of 1842.

No. V.—Improvements and Discoveries,

As, for instance, any new machine by which labour is saved—any improved method of cultivation, and new manufacture, &c.

There has not been any recent improvement to economize labour. Railroads, as a substitute for punt trenches to convey the canes to the buildings, has been tried on a new sugar estate, (Plantation Albion). The experiment has hitherto not succeeded, more perhaps from a want of due arrangement in the details, than its apparent feasibility.

A cutting machine, to facilitate the packing of sugar, has been adopted on one estate.

The plough has frequently been tried to obviate manual labour in the moulding of the canes. Except on light soils the experiment has very partially succeeded, and the routine of cultivation has for the greater part, gone on as before.

No new manufacture has been established within the district.

No. VI.—State of Internal Traffic,

Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

Cotton and linen goods; clothing of a good description—blankets, osnaburgs, boots and shoes; trinkets, glass, crockery ware; fowling pieces, powder and shot: besides provisions of all kinds, spirits, wine and malt liquors. Goods of an inferior kind do not find a ready market. A taste for finery, and expensive dress is prevalent, especially among females.

Stores have been established on the majority of estates, where the above articles (usually conveyed by water from the county town), are retailed to the labourers. The proprietors or managers are rarely interested in these stores.

Hucksters are seldom met with, unless in the immediate vicinity of the town of New Amsterdam.

The state of the roads throughout the county of Berbice, from the supineness or neglect of those to whom the law has assigned the important duty of enforcing their repair, will always present great obstacles to internal communication and traffic.

(Signed) J. A. ALLEN,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

RETURN of certain Estates in District M, showing their Amount of Produce, Expenditure, and Net Profits for the Year 1840.

Estates.	Number of Hogsheads made.	Number of Gallons of Rum.	Number of Gallons of Molasses.	Total Value of Produce.	Amount of Wages actually paid, at 50s. per Dollar.	Probable Amount of		Remarks.
						Management, incidental, and other Expenses, with Interest of Capital.	Net Profit.	
Eliza and Mary	386	26,323	3,687	£. 16,301	£. s. d. 4,062 10 0	£. s. d. 3,238 10 0	£. 9,000	The expenditure of wages on the "Eliza and Mary" is proportionably greater, from its situation on the Courantyne River, and the expense of conveying its produce to New Amsterdam.
Prospect . .	243	17,300	..	10,225	1,362 15 10	1,862 4 2	7,000	The account of Plantation Prospect includes only the period from May to December, 1840, during which it was in possession of its present proprietors, the purchase money being 13,000l.
Cane-field . .	538	42,000	..	24,780	3,333 6 8	4,456 13 4	17,000	The outlay of this estate was very trifling for last year.
Goldstone Hall	228	17,000	..	9,680	2,500 0 0	2,180 0 0	5,000	
Belance . .	390	27,000	900	13,290	3,137 10 0	2,152 10 0	8,000	
Rose Hall . .	300	20,000	3,000	12,800	2,604 3 4	3,195 11 8	7,000	
Total . .	2,039	149,523	7,587	87,076	16,999 15 10	17,076 4 2	53,000	

N.B. The average value of sugar for the year 1840 is estimated at 35l. per hogshead, and that of molasses and rum for the same period at 28 stivers per gallon.

The amount of produce manufactured and of wages paid is taken from a reference to the estates' books by the respective managers.

J. A. ALLEN, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Dated at Berbice this 10th of July, 1841.

(No. 113.)

No. 30.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, 21st August, 1841.

No. 30.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of an ordinance passed by the Governor and Court of Policy, entitled—

No. 12.

An Ordinance to prohibit the transfer of the services of the East Indian or Coolie Labourers without their consent, attested by a Stipendiary Magistrate.

This ordinance is respectfully submitted for Her Majesty's gracious approval.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

(No. 12.)

Enclosure in No. 30.

(1841.)

Encl. in No. 30.

AN ORDINANCE to prohibit the Transfer of the Services of East Indian or Coolie Labourers without their consent, attested by a Stipendiary Magistrate.

ORDINANCE enacted by his Excellency HENRY LIGHT, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in Chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c., by and with the Advice and Consent of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the said Colony.

To all whom these Presents do, may, or shall come Greeting: be it known—

Whereas it is expedient that the services of the East Indian or Coolie labourers, at present in British Guiana, or hereafter to be brought into British Guiana, should not at any time be transferred without the consent of such East Indian or Coolie labourer, duly signified to, and attested by a stipendiary magistrate:

Be it therefore enacted, that from and after the publication of this Ordinance, it shall not be

indenture, bond of service, or other written instrument as aforesaid, without the consent of such East Indian or Coolie labourer, duly signified to, and attested by, a stipendiary magistrate of the district in which such East Indian or Coolie labourer shall, at the time, be located; and the consent of such East Indian or Coolie labourer, and the attestation of the magistrate shall be written by such stipendiary magistrate in some conspicuous part of such indenture, bond, or other instrument; and thereupon, and not otherwise, the said East Indian or Coolie labourer shall become, and be considered to be the articulated servant, tradesman, or labourer of the person to whom, or in whose favour such transfer is made, in the same manner as if such East Indian or Coolie labourer had been originally bound or engaged to such person: Provided always, that in case any East Indian or Coolie labourer shall have been bound for the purpose of learning any trade or business, such East Indian or Coolie's services shall be assigned to some other master or employer of the same trade, capable of instructing him in the same business, unless such East Indian or Coolie labourer shall be desirous of following some other occupation.

And that no ignorance shall be pretended of this our Ordinance, these Presents shall be printed and published in the customary manner.

Thus done and enacted at our adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerary, this 10th August, 1841, and published on the 17th following.

HENRY LIGHT.

By Command of the Court,
H. E. F. YOUNG, Secretary.

(No. 14.)

No. 31.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Governor LIGHT.

Sir,

Downing-street, October 14, 1841.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 113, of the 21st August, submitting for approval an Ordinance passed by yourself and the Court of Policy, entitled—

An Ordinance to prohibit the transfer of the services of the East Indian or Coolie labourers without their consent, attested by a Stipendiary Magistrate.

Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to confirm and allow this Ordinance.

I have, &c.

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

No. 31.

(No. 116.)

No. 32.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Arabian Coast, Essequibo, 2nd September, 1841.

I HAVE great pleasure in forwarding to your Lordship the accompanying copies of letters from the sheriff of Berbice to the Government secretary, and from the Presbyterian minister of the parish of St. Clement's, in that county, respecting the captured Africans located there.

These letters supply the returns of the stipendiary magistrates, and prove the satisfactory change in the condition of these unfortunate victims of the Slave Trade.

I shall attend to the recommendation of the sheriff, and endeavour to locate as he desires the remainder of the cargo of the Dous de Fevereiro, if they should be sent from Rio Janeiro, as has been anticipated.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

No. 32.

Enclosure in No. 32.

Sir,

Office of the Sheriff, Berbice, August 27, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, accompanied by Mr. Lowenfeld, the immigration agent of this county, I this week visited the estates specified in the margin, and inspected the captured Africans who were located upon them, on the 28th of June last. It will, I am sure, be gratifying to his Excellency the Governor, to learn that these people have since their location enjoyed uninterrupted good health. The dwelling-houses which have been allotted to them are very comfortable, and the attention which has been paid to them in respect to food and clothing is evident from their healthy, cheerful countenances, and cleanly appearance. Only one removal has taken place, a man from Everton to Providence, to which he was attracted by a countrywoman of his own, and a fellow passenger. Mr. Lowenfeld has

Encl. in No. 32.
Rose Hall and Cane-field in Canje.
Friends, Everton, and Providence, east bank of river Berbice.
Balthyock and Blairmont, west bank of river Berbice.

BRITISH GUIANA made a corrected registry, and there will be hereafter no difficulty in regard to their names; in fact, they now answer to them readily and distinctly. In the parish of Saint Patrick the Rev. Mr. Fothergill, the rector, has already advanced them in the alphabet, and expects by Christmas that some of them will be able to read words of two or three letters.

I beg to enclose a report from the Rev. Mr. Graham, the minister of Saint Clement's, on the same subject.

Before closing this communication, I am anxious in behalf of these once wretched but now happy people, most respectfully to suggest to his Excellency that those who were captured at the same time, and from on board the same vessel, should be also located in this county, for there can be hardly a question as to several having relatives amongst those now here. It was asserted at Blairmont that they were all seized from one village.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES R. WHINFIELD, Sheriff.

Hon. H. E. F. Young,
&c. &c.

(True Copy.)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

Sir,

St. Clement's Parish, August 24, 1841.

IN regard to the captured Africans located on Plantation Everton and Friends in this parish, I beg to state, that on each of these two estates there is a regularly trained and well qualified teacher. They are all in attendance with their teachers, the younger of them in the day-school, and the elder in the evening-school. I am happy at the same time to certify that they are making respectable progress.

They also attend worship on sabbath, and also seem like the others who attend, well dressed, well fed, and cheerful.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

WILLIAM GRAHAM, Minister of St. Clement's Parish.

His Honour the Sheriff of Berbice,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

(No. 117.)

No. 33.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, 24th August, 1841.

No. 33.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship Mr. Brittain's half yearly return, which had not arrived in time for the mail.

Mr. Brittain's return gives his observations on the condition of the people in the River district in the neighbourhood of George Town, whence in the late changes of districts he had been removed to the Corantyn on the 1st July.

His return is, like the others, fully corroborative of my own observations.

I have the honour of transmitting copy of a letter from Mr. Brittain, accompanying he monthly return for July.

I am happy to say that the proprietors of the estates on the Corantyn have seen their error in not attaching their labourers to the soil by making them independent landholders; they are now offering plots of land to those who have not quitted the estates in search of land elsewhere; had they done so from the commencement, they would not now have to complain of the desertion of many of their best hands.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure in No. 33.

No. 1.

Sir,

Berbice, 13th August, 1841.

Encl. in No. 33.

ON arriving in this county I found the roads in the Courantein district to be in several places quite impassable.

In some parts the country is inundated for want of cokers to carry off the water. In these parts it will take a considerable period of dry weather to carry off the water by evaporation, as there is no drainage. In other parts short but deep swamps obstruct the road, occasioned

Canje Ferry; the furthest, Skeldon, is 50 miles. I visited all the Canje estates immediately on arriving. BRITISH GUIANA

I availed myself of the first opportunity to visit the most distant by water. In company with Mr. Alexander Winter, the attorney of Plantation Eliza and Mary, which adjoins Plantation Skeldon, I visited those two estates. They are both splendid estates with about 3,000 acres of excellent land each, and were making very large crops until 1838, since which time the labourers have been gradually leaving them.

This might, I think, have been prevented had they been offered land to purchase and settle on as freeholders three years ago.

No part of the colony is more healthy than that, and indeed all the sea coast from the Canje Creek to Skeldon.

The land is fertile, and no part of British Guiana, as to climate, would be more favourable to the location of immigrants were the roads but passable.

There are a superabundance of excellent negro houses on both estates. On Skeldon there are new cottages lately erected, but partially inhabited.

A very fine church, with a residence for the clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Henry Redwar, brother to the Rev. Mr. Redwar, of the English church in New Amsterdam, is erected at the joint expense of the two estates, and is situated between them. They also support a schoolmaster, and have offered to sell any quantity of land of good quality, and at a reasonable price, to any persons who wish to form a village of freeholders in the neighbourhood of the church. Any labourers also who wish to purchase, are offered from half an acre to an acre of good land, in convenient lots by the road side, with an engagement by the proprietor to keep up the drainage. It gave me much pleasure to see this wise and liberal principle at last adopted on any estate in this colony. This is the first instance I have heard of, and I sincerely hope it may be attended with the deserved success.

The attorneys of both estates expressed to me their regret that they had not seen the propriety of adopting it three years ago. I mention these circumstances, in order to make his Excellency the Governor acquainted with the condition of those estates, in the event of their owners making application for a share of the African labourers now expected, and for which I understand they purpose to apply.

I exceedingly regret having so long delayed giving in my half-yearly report. I did not receive the form until a few days previous to my leaving my former district, and since my arrival in my present one, my time has been fully occupied in endeavours to visit the different estates, scattered over a considerable extent of country, several of which can only at present be got at by sea. I hope, however, very shortly to be able to see them all, and to report on them, including the required return of immigrants. So soon as the roads become at all passable, I shall inspect and report on them along the whole line of coast, and after having consulted with the proprietors and residents along their coast, I will join them in proposing what will appear to us the most practicable means of preventing the intercourse by land through this district from being again so totally obstructed as it is at present, owing to the late very heavy rains.

I have taken great pains to acquire information on the subject, and it appears to me that if the Government will agree to bear its share of the expense, proportioned to the extent of crown lands on the line of road, the proprietors will not decline undertaking their share. I have just engaged with the proprietor of Plantation Albion, who has come to New Amsterdam to attend the Inferior Criminal Court, to return with him in his sloop in a few days. I propose visiting from thence some neighbouring estates, after which I shall be able to send in the detailed return required of immigrants on all the estates in this district.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) W. J. BRITTAIN,
Stipendiary Magistrate, District M.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

These returns were all ready and taken to the post-office on Sunday last, when I was informed that the inland mail had returned immediately, for the purpose of taking Mr. Alves to attend the Court of Policy, without waiting for the letters.

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's half-yearly Report, ending the 30th day of June, 1841, from District C, Lower Division, in the county of Demerara.

No. 1. General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,

Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners—habits—or tastes—in the rate of mortality—or in the nature and frequency of offences.

The manners of the labouring class to their superiors, since their entire emancipation are more civil, cheerful and respectfully free. They are acquiring a taste for cleanliness, comfort, and many luxuries within their reach. This taste is encouraged by the very excellent cottages now erected, and in the course of being erected for them on most of the estates in this district; also by the high rate of wages, amounting to full half a dollar a-day for a scale of work, which a moderately able labourer can and does finish in four or five hours. Many labourers earn their dollar a-day with ease, I mean agricultural labourers, good tradesmen earn considerably more. Their children are better taken care of now by their mothers than they were formerly by old women, when the mothers had to work every day in the field. Their appear-

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BRITISH GUIANA

ance corresponds with this improved care. Under these circumstances it may be presumed that the mortality of both children and adults will be diminished; exact information, however, on this head, will only be obtained by a correctly taken periodical census of the births, marriages, and deaths, throughout the colony. The statistical information heretofore obtained in this colony, has been lamentably incorrect. No return, in the time of slavery, was made of infants, who were born and died between triennial periods of registration. Nor do I believe that any dependance can be placed on any statistical returns heretofore made, with exception of the number of slaves, which I take to have been correct, probably owing to their registration.

Much is now heard from certain individuals, about the increase of crimes in this colony. My own experience leads me to entertain a different opinion. I have been 20 years in this colony, and have seen most parts of it. From my own observation I should say that, (if any estimate can be formed of the probable amount of crimes from that of punishments,) more punishments were inflicted, under slavery in any given time, on one estate, than are now awarded by sentence in a whole district. Crimes now thought to require the jurisdiction of our Supreme Criminal Court were then summarily punished by the authority, and at the discretion, of the manager of an estate, and the execution was unrecorded and unheard of, except by the parties awarding, inflicting, or suffering it. When I say at the discretion of the manager, and unrecorded, I refer to the period in my recollection, before the establishment of protectors of slaves.

No. II. Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,

Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates—to the progress of labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

The important points adverted to under this second head would require, even to touch very summarily upon them, far more space than is assigned to them in this form of report. I shall for the present, therefore, content myself with observing that the condition of tenancy on nearly all estates in this colony, is that of tenants strictly at will. This condition, being calculated, and avowedly intended to impede the progress of labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders, and to prevent the rising up of new hamlets and villages, tenanted by freeholders, at least in the neighbourhood of those estates, is calculated to diminish the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

Experience as well as theory justifies this conclusion. Many hundreds of labourers have quitted the estates to which they were attached as slaves, to become freeholders on abandoned lands, up the rivers, and in distant locations, where neither magistrates, ministers of religion, or medical practitioners are likely, at least for some time, to follow them. In these cases, both the labourers and employers have generally suffered, but the motives of the former were generally reasonable and good. No freeman, who has the means of preventing it, should leave it in the power of any man, at his sole discretion, to turn him, his wife and children, with all their little hard-earned stock of property, on the high road, at the shortest notice, and to deprive them of the fruits of their labour on their little garden, (of which they only can form a just estimate of the value to them,) on paying the narrow calculation of their value at that moment, by at best a disinterested stranger. These, to my knowledge, are the sentiments and feelings of very many labourers, and their view of their present condition, from which they are straining every nerve to extricate themselves by earning and saving money for the purpose of buying land. When these labourers are allowed to buy this land on, or in the immediate neighbourhood of, existing plantations, the proprietors will ensure the permanent settlement of hands to cultivate their land. Where they are driven to a distance, the estates they leave will be neglected, and ultimately abandoned, at a vast loss, both to the owners and the colony generally, of property sunk on them. Those proprietors or attorneys, (of whom I have reason to believe there are some,) who first adopt a more liberal line of conduct will not only benefit earliest by it, but will insure the greatest number of the best labourers, who will seek to avail themselves of their early good offers. This reasoning will equally apply to immigrants now arriving as to the Creoles of the colony. The only way that either can, in the existing state of society, become bound to any particular estates, is by investing them with an interest in immovable property upon them. All attempts to exercise authority over tenants, beyond that of requiring reasonable rent—all attempts to coerce labour by any other means than the stimulus of its reward, are as unwise as they are unjust, and will recoil with baneful effect on those who employ them.

No. III. New Institutions.

As churches—schools—savings banks—benefit societies.

No. IV. State and prospects of Cultivation,

BRITISH GUIANA

Noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages—the produce of the last crop, and the promise of the next—the weather, &c.

The supply of labour is very deficient throughout the colony, not to say in proportion to the extent and resources of this fertile province, but even to keep up those fine plantations which were in high cultivation three years ago, and the abandonment of which, even partially, will involve a loss of property ruinous to the owners, and seriously injurious to the colony generally, inasmuch as it will require years of assiduous labour and close economy to replace the capital lost. All men of ordinary foresight must have anticipated a considerable diminution of labour, from the existing population, as a consequence of their emancipation. Mothers would naturally devote some, and perhaps a considerable portion of their time to the comforts of their husbands and their children. The very old, and those labouring under severe chronic ailments, would probably retire wholly from the labours of the field; and parents, whose liberal wages enable them to dispense with the earnings of their children, would not be likely to subject them to premature or severe work. Even the able-bodied men might indulge in more frequent relaxation than the rigorous discipline of slavery allowed, or might occasionally employ their industry on their own account. Taking these considerations into account, I do not think the amount of labour afforded to the estates by the present population, less than we had reason to expect. It was, however, supposed that immigration would before this time have taken place to a sufficient extent to make up for the diminution of labour, occasioned by the beforementioned causes. Without questioning how or why immigration has hitherto been obstructed to this colony, I shall only remark that it is highly desirable and important that no further impediments should obstruct their introduction. No country can offer greater advantages to immigrants, especially from tropical climates, than this province, none is more urgently in need of them. Were proprietors so disposed, it would not be in their power to take any undue advantage of them, so long as stipendiary magistrates are continued with their present authority. So highly, however, are labourers now needed and desired that, to my knowledge, some proprietors, led by experience to take a more enlightened view of their own interests than their neighbours, have lately offered to sell small lots of land to them, of the best quality, in desirable situations, and at very moderate prices, with the sensible view of thereby attaching them permanently to their properties. The produce of the first half of the last crop was diminished by too much rain; the latter half was abundant, and the prospect of the next is favourable.

No. V. Improvements and Discoveries.

Important machines for facilitating the manufacture of sugar and coffee, have of late years been generally introduced. A valuable machine for excavating large trenches and canals, has lately been used. The plough has been employed to great advantage on a few estates, but owing to causes which I cannot trace, it has not been so generally introduced as I think it may and ultimately will be.

No. VI. State of Internal Traffic.

Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

Numerous little stores or shops are established in different parts of the country, which supply the several articles of food and clothing generally required by the labourers, whose wants have surprisingly increased with the means of indulging them. Licensed hucksters also travel to the plantations, and bakers' carts supply them with bread of a good quality. Though the wants of the labourers have increased with their means, a disposition is very general among them to hoard with the view of purchasing land for a free settlement.

W. J. BRITTAIN, Stipendiary Magistrate.

(No. 120.)

No. 34.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Arabian Coast, Essequibo, September 11, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship three letters, two of which from the Agent-General of Emigration to the Government Secretary, the third being a copy of Mr. Hackett's instructions by letter to the agent at Berbice.

No. 34.

These documents relate to the arrival of the Venezuela colonial steamer, from Rio de Janeiro, with 129 Africans, the remainder of the cargo of the captured slaver Dous de Fevereiro, on the 8th instant, after a short passage of 24 days, including four days at Pernambuco.

I am happy to say there was neither death nor sickness during the voyage, amongst the Africans, who by my desire, and with their own consent, have been transferred to Berbice, where they will be located with every attention to their comfort.

Ample provision was made by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Rio, for the

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BRITISH GUIANA health and proper sustenance of the Africans, and a surgeon was procured at Rio to accompany them.

I shall reserve till the next mail, further particulars communicated to me by Mr. Ouseley.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure in No. 34.

Sir,

Immigration Office, September 8, 1841.

Encl. in No. 34.

I HAVE the honour to announce, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the arrival of the Venezuela steamer this day, with 129 captured Africans on board, from Rio de Janeiro, being the remaining portion of those taken in the slaver Dous de Fevereiro, and already located at Berbice.

I am happy to report that no death has occurred on the passage, except one man belonging to the vessel, who died of dysentery, all the people looking exceedingly healthy and in good spirits. They have come under the charge of an intelligent and careful medical practitioner, (Dr. Bullock,) who appears to have spared no trouble in administering to their wants and comforts. They are very tractable, and I might add civilized, considering the situation from which they have so recently been rescued.

The sexes are very nearly equal, there being 60 females to 69 males, the great majority of all of whom are young, between, I should say, the ages of 12 and 18 years.

I have but a short time been put in possession of his Excellency's memorandum, respecting the location of these people in Berbice, and am already in treaty with Mr. Allan M'Donald for their passage thither on board the Lady Flora Hastings, and should no objection be made to receive them on board, Mr. M'Donald has agreed to provide a passage free of any expense to the colony.

The Venezuela performed her trip to Rio in 37 days, having a strong head wind to contend against almost all the way, besides two stoppages for fuel at Maranham and Pernambuco, fortunately the depôts were well supplied.

Her stay at Rio was nearly a month, almost three weeks of which time she was detained for convoy. Her passage back has been only 24 days, four of which were spent at Pernambuco, at which place only she had to call for fuel.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JAMES HACKETT,
Agent-General for Immigration.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
Government Secretary.

Sir,

Immigration Office, September 9, 1841.

WITH reference to my letter of yesterday's date, I have the honour to state, for the further information of his Excellency the Governor, that finding there was no objection made by the newly-arrived Africans on board the Venezuela to the proposition of sending them to Berbice, but that they seemed rather pleased with the prospect of meeting their relations and friends again, I at once concluded my arrangement with Mr. M'Donald for their passage thither, and I have just now returned from having seen them all safely transhipped on board the Lady Flora Hastings, and on the way to their place of destination.

The accompanying letter is a copy of one which I have forwarded to Mr. Lowenfeld, for his guidance, which I hope will meet his Excellency's approbation.

Enclosed also are returns of other immigrant arrivals since my last report to his Excellency.

The Peg. A. Ramsay, from Barbados, arrived this morning, brings an account that vessels from hence to that island will have to remain 23 days in quarantine, owing to the alleged prevalency of small-pox here at present.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES HACKETT,
Agent-General for Immigration.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
Government Secretary.

Sir,

Immigration Office, September 9, 1841.

HAVING received instructions from his Excellency the Governor to forward the captured Africans who arrived here yesterday from Rio de Janeiro in the Venezuela steamer to Berbice, to be located there, I now do so accordingly, under the auspices of Mr. Allan M'Donald, who takes them up with him on board the steamer Lady Flora Hastings, free of any expense to the colony.

I am to request your best attention in behalf of these people, and also to convey to you his Excellency's desire that their respective locations may be made, under the combined arrangement of the stipendiary magistrate, Mr. Strutt, his Honour Sheriff Whinfield, and yourself.

They are 129 in number, of whom 60 are females, all in good health and spirits, being the remaining portion of those already landed in Berbice from the slaver Dous de Fevereiro.

Regard be given will be had in their location to the reunion of families and the relationship of the parties, where such may be discovered to exist.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JAMES HACKETT,
Agent-General for Immigration.

G. G. Lowenfeld, Esq.,
Agent for Immigration.

(No. 122.)

No. 35.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord, Arabian Coast, Essequibo, 21st September, 1841.

IN my Despatch No. 120, date 11th September, I had the honour of reporting the arrival of the Venezuela steamer, belonging to this colony, from Rio de Janeiro, and the steps taken with regard to the captured Africans brought here from thence.

No. 35.

I have now the honour of transmitting to your Lordship copies of the various documents received from Mr. Ouseley, the Chargé d'Affaires, and from Mr. C. Ouseley, who has been appointed agent for this colony at Rio.

No. 1 is copy of Mr. Ouseley's letter to me, referring to various correspondence in the succeeding pages annexed to that copy, lettered A, B, C, D, E, F, G. A, is copy of Mr. Ouseley's offer of the agency to Mr. C. Ouseley. B, is copy of acceptance. C, is copy of notification of Mr. C. Ouseley's appointment as agent to the captain of the steamer Venezuela. D, is copy of a letter from Mr. C. Ouseley to the Chargé d'Affaires, demanding the amount of Africans ready for embarkation. E, is copy of letter from Mr. Ouseley to Mr. C. Ouseley, stating the terms on which the latter is to hold the agency. F, is a request from Mr. C. Ouseley for interference to protect the Venezuela from being molested by the Brazilian cruizers. G, is copy of information to the captain of the steamer that application has been made to the Chargé d'Affaires for protection.

In addition to these documents, I have the honour to forward copy of a private and confidential communication respecting the transfer of captured Africans to this colony, and Mr. Ouseley's reasons, in which I entirely concur, for the appointment of Mr. C. Ouseley. It will be highly advantageous to the interests of the colony, and will I hope be approved by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, as well as by your Lordship.

The remaining documents, 2, 3, are copy of a letter forwarding Mr. Ouseley's instructions to his brother with regard to the agency, which are highly judicious.

No. 1, the last of a series of papers relative to expenses incurred on account of the captured Africans, by Mr. C. Ouseley, not necessary to be forwarded to your Lordship; and a copy annexed of the application made for convoy to the Venezuela.

If I were not convinced that the unhappy Africans are benefited by the transfer to this colony, I should not so urgently press the continuance of the countenance of Her Majesty's Government to that effect. I have, in my residence on this coast, seen that the Africans from Sierra Leone are far from being in the civilized state I should have anticipated; that their condition must, therefore, here be improved; how much more so then must the pure savage be raised by being brought amongst his own colour, who are in a high progressive state of civilization.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 35.

No. 1.

Sir, British Legation, Rio de Janeiro, August 2, 1841.

REFERRING to the separate correspondence with which your Excellency honoured me relating to the details of the service required for the interests of British Guiana, as relates to the conveyance to that colony of liberated Africans, I beg to refer to the enclosed copies of

Encl. in No. 35.

BRITISH GUIANA various correspondence which has taken place on this matter, which I transmit for your Excellency's information. By this opportunity (the return of the Venezuela steamer) I forward other communications on the same subject.

A.
B.
C.
D.
E.
F.
G.

His Excellency Henry Light, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. G. OUSELEY.

(A.)

Sir,

British Legation, July 23, 1841.

HAVING been empowered by the government of Her Majesty's colony of Guiana to enter into the arrangements that may seem most expedient for promoting the conveyance to that colony of such Africans as from time to time may be captured under circumstances admitting of their being sent to a British possession, I hereby, in virtue of the authority vested in me by the government of British Guiana, nominate and appoint you agent for that colony; and request you to let me know whether you are ready to undertake the services required for the furtherance of the above-mentioned object, to the details of which it is impossible for me personally to attend.

I transmit a memorandum, which is to be considered as containing the instructions to which you are to conform, until the same be modified or explained by other instructions from his Excellency the Governor of British Guiana.

The expenses which you may incur in carrying into effect the objects of the government of British Guiana will be duly considered, and will form the subject of a separate communication.

Henry C. Ouseley, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. G. OUSELEY.

(B.)

Sir,

British Legation, July 23, 1841.

In reply to your letter of this date, appointing me agent for the colonial government of British Guiana, for the transmission of any Africans who may from time to time be captured in slave vessels on this station, under circumstances allowing of their being sent to that colony; and enclosing a memorandum, to serve as instructions for my guidance, until modified or replaced by other instructions from the Governor of British Guiana, I beg to state that I am willing to accept the appointment in question, and shall use my best endeavours to fulfil your instructions, or those of his Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, respecting the services to be performed.

W. G. Ouseley, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. C. OUSELEY.

(C.)

Sir,

British Legation, July 23, 1841.

HAVING appointed Henry C. Ouseley, Esq., Attaché to Her Majesty's Legation at this Court, as agent for British Guiana, in all such matters relating to the conveyance to that colony of captured Africans, as I am authorized to provide for, I have to request that you will apply to that gentleman for whatever advice or assistance you may require in the discharge of your duties as commander of the Venezuela, while in this country. Should it be necessary for you to apply to the British Legation, the Admiral Commander-in-chief, or to the Brazilian authorities, the proper channel for communication will be Mr. Henry Ouseley.

W. Causzar, Esq.,
Commanding the British Colonial steamer Venezuela.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. G. OUSELEY.

(D.)

Sir,

British Legation, July 25, 1841.

I HAVE to request that you will do me the favour to let me know the exact number of Africans who are to be received on board the British Colonial steamer Venezuela, from Her Majesty's receiving ship Crescent, for a passage to Demerara.

W. G. Ouseley, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. OUSELEY.

(E.)

Sir,

Rio de Janeiro, July 26, 1841.

WITH reference to my official letter of the 23d instant, appointing you agent for Her Majesty's colony of Guiana at this capital. I have to inform you that you will receive until

which you are charged, the sum of 50*l.* per quarter, or a daily pay, equivalent to the sum of BRITISH GUIANA 200*l.* per annum.

This sum is to defray all extra expenses, such as those of chaise, or horse-hire, the expenses of messengers, boats, as well as for stationery; in short, all incidental and personal expenses whatever incurred in the agency for British Guiana, for which no separate account is to be brought, and is also to be considered as remunerating the services which you will have to perform as agent for the colony.

You will, therefore, be empowered by me to draw for 50*l.* quarterly, until the pleasure of his Excellency the Governor of British Guiana be ascertained as to the continuance or alteration of the present arrangement. Should any unforeseen circumstances render it expedient in your opinion to incur greater expenses, you will address the government of Guiana, fully explaining such circumstances, and request the necessary authorization, for which, however, it is not probable that a necessity will arise.

Henry C. Ouseley, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. G. OUSELEY.

(F.)

Sir,

British Legation, July 29, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to request your interference to take such steps as may be necessary to secure the British Colonial steamer *Venezuela*, now about to proceed on her voyage to Demerara, from detention or hindrance, either in leaving this port, or in case she falls in with a Brazilian cruiser at sea, or should be obliged to touch at any of the northern ports of this empire, in order to procure fuel or supplies.

Her conveying liberated Africans to that colony being a circumstance which might possibly give rise to difficulties on the part of the Brazilian authorities.

W. G. Ouseley, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. OUSELEY.

(G.)

Sir,

British Legation, July 29, 1841.

I HAVE to inform you that I have already addressed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires requesting him to take the necessary steps to secure the British Colonial steamer under your command, now about to proceed on her voyage to Demerara from detention or hindrance on the part of the Brazilian authorities, either in leaving this port, or, in case she falls in with a Brazilian cruiser at sea, or should be obliged to touch at any of the northern ports of this empire, in order to procure fuel or supplies.

As your departure now depends wholly on the result of the measures taken by Mr. Ouseley, I shall not fail to let you know it as early as possible, in order to prevent any unnecessary delay.

W. Causzar, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. OUSELEY.

(True Copies.)

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

(Private and Confidential.)

Sir,

British Legation, Rio de Janeiro, August 2, 1841.

I REGRET to say that it has been impossible for me to give all that personal attention to carry into effect your Excellency's wishes and recommendations in regard to the important subjects of your late communications by the *Venezuela*, that I could wish. Your despatches reached me at the moment when my duties at this Court, as Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, are about to cease, and at the same time the Emperor's coronation, and arrival of Mr. Hamilton Hamilton, Her Majesty's envoy, have not left me a moment to call my own.

It became absolutely necessary to name some person to carry out the plan indicated by your Excellency; and I considered it but an act of justice to the colony of British Guiana which has come forward so promptly and liberally to meet views that I could not but anticipate would be approved by Her Majesty's Government; and that I at first adopted on my own responsibility; to further by any means in my power at once the interests of Her Majesty's colony, and those of the Africans captured by our cruisers.

Her Majesty's Government have entirely approved of the steps that I took in this matter, and have further directed that they should be followed up on every fitting occasion.

It appeared to me for several reasons expedient to name a gentleman attached to Her Majesty's Legation, as agent for British Guiana. Mr. Henry Ouseley, my brother, has, by his position, a facility of access to Her Majesty's minister and to the commander-in-chief: he is, moreover, exempted from any jurisdiction of the Brazilian authorities, and, consequently, less liable to the annoyances and impediments to which an agency for the peculiar purpose in question, established in any mercantile house, or by the employment of an unprotected individual, probably would be subjected. Moreover, it must not be forgotten that persons engaged in commercial pursuits have necessarily peculiar interests to consult, and might possibly be more mindful of procuring employment for their own vessels, or turning to profitable account the power with which they might be invested in the purchase of supplies, &c., than of the

BRITISH GUIANA interests of the colony. By the employment of Mr. Henry Ouseley, with a small fixed salary, any risk of this sort is entirely avoided, and the agent kept entirely clear of any unfavourable influence whatever. I think it may be expedient for me to draw for three or six months' salary, or 50*l.* or 100*l.*, for Mr. H. Ouseley, leaving that sum subject to his order; and if the arrangement is satisfactory to your Excellency, he can then be empowered to continue quarterly to draw 50*l.*

The general model which I have directed Mr. H. Ouseley to follow in the contracts for supplies, &c., is the system pursued for Her Majesty's receiving ship *Crescent*, which has been found to answer remarkably well. The same tradesmen and artificers will also be employed, when required, as those hired for the *Crescent*.

The great importance of supplying Her Majesty's colonies with labourers, and of at the same time defeating the purposes of the slave traders, strikes me so strongly, that it would have been among the chief objects of my official and personal exertions, had I remained in charge of this Legation, to further your Excellency's objects. Her Majesty's Government has also come forward nobly in this cause; and it is consequently, not only a matter of expediency or inclination, but of duty, to assist it. I doubt not that you will find Mr. Hamilton (who informs me that he is personally acquainted with you) ready to assist your views for the advantage of the colony.

* Enclosed in
No. 2.

Many details on which I should have been glad to consult your Excellency, I am forced merely to indicate in the memorandum* given to Mr. Henry Ouseley. Some delay and difficulty has occurred in getting the *Venezuela* out, from the Brazilian Government not having positively recognized the character of that vessel. It would be advisable in future to furnish any vessel coming hither with such a commission or authority, as would entirely take it out of the class of merchant vessels.

If the appointment of my brother be approved, I would request your Excellency to forward by the first opportunity a commission for him as agent for the colony of British Guiana under such conditions as you may think fit.

His Excellency Henry Light,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. G. OUSELEY.

(A true Copy.)

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

No. 2.

Sir,

British Legation, Rio de Janeiro, August 2, 1841.

I HAD the honour duly to receive your Excellency's Despatches, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and other communications by the *Venezuela* steamer, and by the return of that vessel forward my replies and Despatches of this date.

Being about to return to England, and having to make over the affairs of her Majesty's legation to the envoy, Mr. Hamilton Hamilton, I have been, and am still so fully occupied, that it has been out of my power to give to the details of the service that your Excellency has confided to me, that personal attention (beyond that of giving the necessary instructions and providing for their execution,) that I should have wished. I have, however, deputed Mr. Henry Ouseley, attached to her Majesty's legation, to act for me in this matter, and he will continue to do so, under my instructions, until he receives further notice or different instructions from your Excellency.

The memorandum, copy of which I have the honour to enclose, contains such instructions as it appeared to me advisable at once to give for the guidance of Mr. H. Ouseley, as agent for British Guiana; and I have to request that your Excellency will be pleased to cause any additions or alterations in those instructions which may seem expedient to be made in them, corresponding directly with that gentleman, as want of the knowledge and experience possessed by your Excellency of the peculiar circumstances and wants of the colony may have caused many points to escape me.

There is at this moment a captured slave barque in this harbour, which may, I trust, be sent shortly to British Guiana for adjudication, and furnish means of transport for upwards of 100 more Africans, now in the temporary employ of different individuals in and near this capital.

His Excellency Henry Light,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. G. OUSELEY.

MEMORANDUM

To serve as instructions to Henry C. Ouseley, Esq., as agent for the Government of British Guiana for conveying to that colony captured Africans, &c.

Art. 1. Immediately on the arrival of a vessel with captured Africans on board, who are, with the sanction of her Majesty's minister at this court, to be removed to a British possession, you will apply to the minister for his permission to cause the said Africans to be conveyed to British Guiana.

Art. 2. You will also solicit the assistance and good offices of the Admiral Commander in Chief, or senior officer on this station for the furtherance of the object for which you are appointed. To that effect I shall furnish you with an official letter of recommendation to the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Edward D. King.

Art. 3. I should recommend your proceeding on board such captured vessel as may enter

this harbour with or without Africans on board, in order to ascertain the number, general age and appearance, and sanitary state of the Africans, if any, on board, or the capacity and state of the vessel, with a view to determine whether it be advisable to take measures for causing their immediate transmission to British Guiana; or whether the vessel be fitted for the conveyance of Africans to that destination.

Art. 4. Should an empty slave vessel fitted to convey Africans be brought in as a prize, you will request permission in the proper quarter to cause the transshipment of such Africans from on board Her Majesty's receiving ship *Crescent*, or elsewhere in this country, as may be placed at your disposal.

Art. 5. You must be particularly careful, however, to avoid giving rise to any embarrassment or delay by a neglect of the Brazilian quarantine, and general sanitary regulations, for the rigorous and perhaps vexatious enforcement of which you must be prepared.

Art. 6. Should slave vessels be captured on the northern coast of Brazil, it would be advisable to apprise, unofficially, the commanders of Her Majesty's vessels of the advantage of sending their captures at once, and without entering this port, to British Guiana for condemnation, both on account of propinquity and facility of navigation; as also of the promptitude shown by the government and inhabitants of that colony, in liberally providing means to transport and take charge of captured Africans without any expense to Her Majesty's Government. Similar considerations might be submitted on fitting occasions to Her Majesty's minister or Commander-in-Chief to induce a preference in sending captured Africans to British Guiana, inasmuch as although other colonies have shown a desire to obtain the services of the Africans, none has come forward with the ready, practical, and effective measures that the government of British Guiana has already adopted for their transmission and subsequent provision.

Art. 7. In selecting Africans for transmission to British Guiana, it will be advisable, as far as practicable, to avoid disparity in the number of males and females.

Art. 8. An ample supply of water must in all cases be carefully provided; as also a well stored medicine chest, for the due preparation of which I recommend your applying to the surgeon of the flag-ship or of Her Majesty's receiving ship; possibly medicines of a better quality might thus be procured than those usually for sale in the town; large quantities of the most useful and general medicines, and of chlorate of lime and sodium as disinfectants, and alum for purifying water, should be provided.

Art. 9. It will always be advisable, if it can be effected without great delay or expense, to procure the services of a surgeon or qualified medical practitioner; in the present instance, in fixing the remuneration to be given to Mr. Bullock, who proceeds on board the *Venezuela* in that capacity, I have been guided by the amount of pay received by the assistant surgeon of Her Majesty's receiving ship; but the inducement to Mr. Bullock to accept this offer was, that he wished for a passage to Demerara, and it may not always be possible to procure medical services so reasonably at short notice, and for a period of short duration.

Art. 10. Whenever a medical man is engaged for a slave vessel, you will put him in communication with the surgeon and assistant surgeon of Her Majesty's receiving ship, requesting them to afford the advice and assistance which their experience and skill will enable them to afford.

Art. 11. Care must be taken to secure, as far as possible, all vessels proceeding with liberated Africans from impediments or difficulties likely to be experienced from the Brazilian authorities or cruisers. Whenever possible, it will be advantageous to obtain a pennant for the steamer or vessel employed, and a naval officer and some men; also a gun or two, and some small arms and ammunition, both as a means of making signals and possible defence; as also to preserve that police or discipline on board which it may otherwise be difficult to enforce. It is superfluous to recommend that the greatest prudence and forbearance be observed in all matters likely to lead to dispute or difference either with other vessels or the shore, or in the internal arrangement of the vessels. It is advisable rather to endeavour to send comparatively few who may thus be forwarded in good health and safety than to crowd the vessels so as to cause sickness or prevent recovery.

Art. 12. As it appears that great numbers of captured Africans are now in dépôt at St. Helena at considerable expense to Her Majesty's and the Colonial Government, and that their services are not wanted in that island, I have to suggest to you the expediency of applying in the proper quarter for permission to send any vessel captured, or otherwise disposable, as a transport to convey Africans from thence to Guiana; as also to enter into arrangements for sending captured vessels from the coast of Africa or the high seas when feasible, at once to that colony.

Art. 13. The slave barque now in this harbour, or any other hereafter captured and to be sent to a British vice-admiralty court, might be advantageously employed in sending the Africans still disposable to Guiana; if, on application, such a course be approved by Her Majesty's minister and the Commander-in-Chief.

Art. 14. It would be advisable that a dépôt of coals should be established for the account of the colony of British Guiana, if that government should think fit to continue to send steam vessels to this capital, as the fluctuation in price is then avoided, no delay experienced; and no duty being levied on coals and machinery in this country, the expediency of directing cargoes of coals, or vessels to be ballasted with coals and sent direct from England to this place with them, on account of the government of Guiana, might be suggested to his Excellency the Governor as a great saving of expense.

Art. 15. It must, above all things, be impressed upon the commander, surgeon, and others of the steamers or other vessels conveying Africans, to be particularly careful in their treatment of the Africans. It will not be sufficient that they themselves should be scrupulous and vigi-

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BRITISH GUIANA lant in all matters relating to their health, comfort, cleanliness, food, &c., so as to merit the trust confided in them, they must also be mindful that no abuses arising from the misconduct of others on board be permitted.

Art. 16. Accounts in duplicate must be carefully and regularly kept of all expenses incurred in furthering the objects for which you are employed as agent of British Guiana; and copies forwarded to his Excellency the Governor of that colony; and you will endeavour to procure the supplies and articles required at the lowest rate compatible with good quality.

(Signed)
(True Copy.)

W. G. OUSELEY, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires,
Rio de Janeiro, 26th July, 1841.

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

No. 3.

Sir,

Rio de Janeiro, August 14, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency copy of a letter from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to the Admiral, Commander-in-Chief on this station, which having been communicated by Mr. Ouseley to me, I now forward as explanatory in some measure of the delay which has unavoidably taken place in obtaining for that vessel a sufficient protection from interruption on the part of the Brazilian authorities, who would be very likely to avail themselves of an opportunity of interfering with unprotected vessels employed on the same service as the Venezuela.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Henry Light, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) H. C. OUSELEY.

Sir,

British Legation, 11th August, 1841.

THE Venezuela steamer being about to proceed to Demerara with the remaining Africans from on board the Dous de Fevereiro, in accordance with the instructions from Her Majesty's Government, and having reason to fear that interruption may be experienced from Brazilian cruizers by that steamer in proceeding to her destination with Africans on board, unless she be accompanied by one of Her Majesty's vessels, I have to request that you will be pleased to direct that a vessel of war be sent to sea with that steamer if there do not exist on your part any objection to this course.

It is highly desirable that this first experiment in forwarding captured Africans by a vessel sent expressly from Her Majesty's colonial possessions should not fail in consequence of misconception or unwarrantable interference. And it is on this account that I am more anxious that a vessel of war may accompany the Venezuela which, although provided with sufficient documents, and officially announced to the Imperial Authorities as being engaged in the service of Her Majesty's Government, may yet, if unprotected, be subjected to interruptions, the consequences of which, with many persons on board, might be very injurious. I trust to have the honour of personally communicating with you to day on this matter. The Venezuela is ready for sea at a few hours' notice.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Sir Edward D. King,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. G. OUSELEY.

(True Copies.)

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

(No. 33.)

No. 36.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Governor LIGHT.

Sir,

Downing-street, 8th December, 1841.

No. 36.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 122, of the 21st September, transmitting various documents received from Mr. Ouseley, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Rio de Janeiro, relative to the conveyance of liberated Africans from Rio to British Guiana, and the appointment of Mr. Henry C. Ouseley as agent for the colony in the conduct of this service.

I have now to acquaint you that the Earl of Aberdeen has stated that he does not object to Mr. Henry Ouseley's appointment to that office.

I have, &c.

(No. 123.)

No. 37.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Arabian Coast, Essequibo, 22nd September, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the stipendiary magistrates' returns for the month of August; the summary by Mr. Wolseley; the separate Coolie returns, Africans from Sierra Leone, and of those first brought here in the captured slaver from Rio de Janeiro.

No. 37.

There is a great inequality in the sexes amongst the first arrivals from Sierra Leone, and of emigrants from the islands, who will not bring their families here till they have had experience of the place. I shall exert myself to prevent the continuance of this inequality.

It is very satisfactory to report the few complaints adjudicated by the magistrates between planters and labourers; and the general health of the newly arrived Africans, either captured, or from Sierra Leone.

I have, &c.

The Right. Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure 1, in No. 37.

AN Epitome of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints of August, 1841.

Encl. 1, in No. 37.

Magistrates.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Offences.	How disposed of.
W. J. Brittain .	0	.	.
C. R. Whinfield .	0	.	.
A. M. Lyons .	1	Complaint preferred by a domestic servant against her mistress for the recovery of wages.	Judgment for complainant, with one dollar compensation for time lost at magistrate's office.
J. A. Allen .	6	5 complaints by journeymen carpenters against a secondary class of master carpenters to recover payments of their accounts.	Adjusted by granting a little time to the defendants.
		1 complaint preferred by an Indian to obtain payment of wages from a wood-cutter.	Letter written to the accused; complainant to report result if not successful.
J. O. L. Mure .	2	1 complaint preferred by a journeyman carpenter against a master carpenter for the recovery of wages.	Warrant to distrain issued, and by that means claim recovered.
		1 washerwoman against an overseer, to obtain payment of her account.	Adjusted to complainant's satisfaction.
T. Coleman .	2	2 complaints for the recovery of wages between carpenters and coopers.	Time allowed to remedy defects in work, and payment ordered thereafter.
J. Macleod .	1	1 complaint preferred by a labourer from Sierra Leone, under the impression of a short payment of wages.	Claim disproved and case dismissed.
G. Ball .	1	Complaint preferred by a carpenter against a wood-cutter, claiming 32 dollars, 9 cents. for work performed.	Judgment for 25 dollars and 42 cents, all that was justly due.
W. H. Ware .	1	1 journeyman carpenter against master carpenter for the recovery of wages.	Claim paid, with one dollar compensation for time lost in recovering it.
D. Maclellan .	4	1 complaint preferred by a sheep-keeper against his employer, the manager of an estate, for the recovery of wages.	Payment ordered on condition that he identified a sheep which he had allowed to join another flock.
		1 female plantation labourer against the manager to recover wages that were withheld.	Plea for withholding unjustifiable, and payment ordered.

N 2

Magistrates.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Offences.	How disposed of.
W. J. Sandiford .	4	1 plantation labourer against his manager to obtain payment of wages.	Pay-book examined, and the amount due found to exceed the amount claimed by 1 dollar and 84 cents.
		1 complaint between two carpenters to obtain the adjustment of an account.	Stands over till the residence of a party concerned can be ascertained.
		1 complaint preferred by a Hill Coolie labourer, alleging that he had not received any allowance of provisions for three weeks.	The evidence proved that he had been absent the whole time without any reasonable excuse. Dismissed.
		1 complaint by a plantation labourer to recover an alleged balance of wages.	Complainant discovered that she was in error, and withdrew her complaint.
		1 complaint by a plantation labourer to recover an alleged balance of wages.	Half the amount claimed found to be due and paid.
		1 complaint by a plantation labourer to recover an alleged balance of wages.	Dismissed, the complainant having left his employ in violation of a contract of service.
A. van R. de Groot	1	1 complaint professed by the manager of an estate against an indentured Hill Coolie labourer, charging him with eight days absence from his master's service.	This being the fifth similar offence, and the complainant having overlooked all former ones to no purpose, the accused was sentenced to four days' imprisonment in the colonial jail.
C. H. Strutt . .	5	5 complaints preferred by journeymen masons and carpenters against their master-workmen for the recovery of wages.	In three cases the amounts claimed paid immediately; in the other two a fortnight's grace was granted.
K. Heyland, (Georgetown district.)	57	Complaints principally for the recovery of wages, and all occurring in the town, between journeymen, domestics, and apprentice boys; master artificers and petty tradesmen.	Sixteen dismissed; three settled without adjudication; the remainder variously adjusted.

W. B. WOLSELEY, Circuit Stipendiary Magistrate.

SUMMARY of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints for the Month of August, 1841.

MESSRS. Stipendiary Justices Brittain and Whinfield report that they had no complaint between masters and servants preferred before them during the month of August.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Lyon's record contains one case, a complaint preferred by a domestic servant against her mistress for withholding her wages to the amount of four dollars in consequence of the complainant having broken a tureen. The accused declined making any defence, and was sentenced to pay the amount of wages that was due, with one dollar additional to compensate the complainant for the time she had lost in substantiating her claim.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Allen's record contains six cases, of which five are complaints preferred by journeymen carpenters against a secondary class of master carpenters for the recovery of various sums of money claimed by the complainants for services performed, all of which were adjusted by means of granting a little indulgence of time to the defaulters. The other is a complaint preferred by an Indian of the Morocco Creek against a wood-cutter in that neighbourhood to obtain payment of a claim of 18 dollars for work performed. The magistrate gave the complainant a letter to the party accused, and from his not having returned as he was desired to do in case of nonpayment, it is presumed the matter has been settled.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Mure's record contains two cases; the first is a complaint preferred by a journeyman carpenter against a master carpenter for the recovery of wages, for which a warrant to distrain had to be issued, and by that means the claim was recovered. The next is a complaint preferred by a washerwoman against an overseer to obtain the settlement of a disputed washing account, which was adjusted to the complainant's satisfaction.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Coleman's record contains two cases for the recovery of wages between carpenters and coopers; in both it was proved that the jobs agreed upon had not been completed as they should have been; time was allowed to remedy the defects, and payment ordered thereafter on pain of levy.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice MacLeod's record contains one case, a complaint preferred by an immigrant labourer from Sierra Leone under the impression that he had not been sufficiently paid for the work he had performed; the evidence proved that he had worked irregularly, and had received to the full extent of what he had earned. The case was consequently dismissed.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Ball's record contains one case, a complaint preferred by a carpenter against a wood-cutter for the recovery of wages to the amount of 32 dollars 9 cents. The evidence

proved that 25 dollars and 42 cents, was the sum due to the complainant, which was ordered **BRITISH GUIANA** to be paid within one week on pain of levy.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Ware's record contains one case, a complaint preferred by a journeyman carpenter against a master carpenter for the recovery of wages. Judgment in favour of complainant, with one dollar compensation for the time he had lost in preferring and substantiating his complaint.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice MacLennan's record contains four cases, of which three are complaints by labourers against their employers, managers of estates, for the recovery of wages. In one of these cases, in which the complainant was a sheep-keeper, payment of his wages had been withheld till such time as he should identify and restore to the flock under his own charge two sheep which he had negligently allowed to join the flock of an adjoining estate. The complainant was ordered to comply with this requisition, and was afterwards paid the amount that was due to him. In the next case the wages had been withheld on the plea that the amount was due by the complainant for house rent for the time she was sick, and consequently absent from her work; such a proceeding was declared to be illegal, and the money claimed ordered forthwith to be paid. In the third case, upon an examination of the plantation pay-book, it was discovered that the complainant was entitled to 1 dollar 84 cents. more than his claim, which was paid to him accordingly. The last case in this record is a complaint between two carpenters to obtain the settlement of an account which could not be adjusted at the moment, the residence of a party concerned not being known.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Sandiford's record contains four cases; the first is a complaint preferred by a Hill Coolie labourer, alleging that he had not received any allowance from his employer for the space of three weeks. The evidence proved that he had been absent from the estate without any justifiable excuse for the entire period, with the exception of two days; the allowance claimed could not consequently be awarded, except for the two days, and the case was disposed of accordingly. The remaining three cases were complaints preferred by plantation labourers against their employers for the recovery of various arrears of wages, the first of which was dismissed, the complainant (previously to any proceedings) having declared herself to be in error. In the next it was proved that but half the amount claimed was actually due, of which payment was immediately made; and the third case was dismissed, the complainant having quitted his employer's service in violation of an admitted monthly contract, and taken work on an adjoining estate.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice De Groot's record contains one case, a complaint preferred by the manager of Plantation Waterloo against a Hill Coolie labourer indentured to the proprietor of that estate charging him with eight days' absence from his master's work. It was proved by the evidence that this was the fifth time the accused had been guilty of similar misconduct, and on each occasion had escaped with a reprimand only. As several others had offended in like manner, it was deemed necessary to visit the present case with some trifling penalty; the accused was accordingly sentenced to four days' imprisonment in Her Majesty's gaol at New Amsterdam.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Strutt's record contains five cases, all of which are complaints preferred by journeymen carpenters and masons of the town of New Amsterdam against their master-workmen for the recovery of wages, in three of which the amounts claimed were immediately paid; and in two, the defendants not having the means at command, a fortnight's grace was granted.

The record of complaints for the Georgetown district, under the charge of Mr. Stipendiary Justice Heyland, contains 57 cases of complaints, all arising in the town, and, as usual, principally for the recovery of wages between journeymen, domestics, and apprentice boys, master artificers, and petty tradesmen, of which 16 cases were dismissed, three settled without adjudication, and the remainder adjusted according to the evidence.

Respectfully submitted by

W. B. WOLSELEY,

Circuit Stipendiary Magistrate, British Guiana.

Enclosure 2, in No. 37.

MONTHLY REPORT respecting Hill Coolies in British Guiana, this 1st of August, 1841.

Location.	Number on Estate.			Absentees.	Number of Days absent.	Deaths since the last Report.	Number Sick on 31st Ult. and general State of their Health during last Month.	Particulars and Result of any Complaint preferred in the course of the past Month.
	Men.	Women.	Children.					
Belle Vue . . .	56	2	..	None . . .	..	None	7 with colds and bowel complaints chiefly. No severe case.	Piltum and others, in number eight, complained that the allowance given them was short. On investigation, it appeared that the hospital assistant had, by mistake, given the allowance prescribed, by hospital regulations, to Nos. 1 and 2, instead of 3 and 4. Ordered, that the allowance be given according to the regulation; and the manager engaged that it should not occur again.

Monthly Report respecting Hill Coolies in British Guiana—continued.

Location.	Number on Estate.			Absentees.	Number of Days absent.	Deaths since the last Report.	Number Sick on 31st Ult., and general State of their Health during last Month.	Particulars and Result of any Complaint preferred in the course of the past Month.
	Men.	Women.	Children.					
Wales . . .	49	2	3	Buldee. . .	Since 20th July .	None	5 bowel complaints and slight colds. General state of health very good.	Puckerow complained of being beaten by driver. Evidence produced, which proved that complainant had commenced the first assault.
Vriedestein . .	22	..	..	None . . . .	..	None	None. General state of health very good.	Narrain complained of being worked in the field. Contract of agreement proved he had engaged himself as a field labourer.
Waterloo . . .	40	..	..	None . . . .	..	None	8 with intermittent fevers.	None.
Anna Regina . .	42	3	6	..	..	1 death (Neitchue) 14th July.	4 sick. General state of health sickly the first part of July, the latter part good.	No complaints preferred during last month.
Highbury . . .	91	7	10	Ali Bacchus .	14 days to date .	1 death (Baccarde), drowned when bathing in the Berbice river, on 10th July.	15 sick on 31st July. General state of health during the month, good.	No complaints of any kind.

Taken from the Stipendiary Magistrates' Monthly Returns, of the 1st August, 1841.

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

MONTHLY REPORT respecting Hill Coolies in British Guiana, this 1st September, 1841.

Location.	Number on Estate.			Absentees.	Number of Days absent.	Deaths since the last Report.	Number Sick on 31st Ult., and general State of their Health during last Month.	Particulars and Result of any Complaint preferred in the course of the past Month.
	Men.	Women.	Children.					
Belle Vue . . .	56	2	..	Jowhyessing, on leave.	7th June, 1839 .	None	24 colds and coughs, a few cases of fever. General state of health good.	Narrain and Puckerow, attached to Plantation Wales, complained that they were not desirous, any longer, of serving on Plantation Wales. Narrain stated he had worked as a domestic while living at Vreed en Hoop, and, till lately, also at Wales; that the manager, Mr. Cameron, could not agree with him, and had ordered him into the field, being informed his contract stipulated that he should work in the field if required; and, as Mr. Cameron refused to receive him in the house again, he was told to do field labour, which he refused, and stated his wish to leave the estate. On being informed he would forfeit his rights to a free passage back to Calcutta, at the expiration of his contract of service, by quitting the estate, he said he was satisfied to provide himself a passage, but that he would not live any longer on the estate. He was then informed he could go if he thought proper, but was strongly urged by the magistrate to remain.
Wales	49	2	3	Narrain, Puckerow.	Since 3rd of August.	None	14. General state of health good.	Buldee, of Wales, complained of not receiving his allowance. It was proved that he had been absent for three weeks, excepting two days, which was given him in presence of the magistrate.
Waterloo . . .	40	..	..	Ramjaun . . . Retoo	27 days 10 days	None	8. General state of health good.	Retoo has been sentenced to four days' solitary confinement in Her Majesty's Gaol, for absenting himself ten days from the estate without any just or reasonable cause.
Vriedestein . .	22	..	..	None . . . .	..	None	4 in hospital. General state of health good.	None.
Highbury . . .	91	7	10	Ali Bacchus .	All the month .	None	14 sick on 31st August. General state of health during the month, good.	No complaints of any kind.
Anna Regina . .	41	3	6	..	..	1 death (Yapper Roy), 30th August.	2 sick. General state of health good.	One complaint preferred 30th August, respecting the quantity of food and withdrawal of certain gratuitous allowances, not yet investigated, in consequence of the manager's absence.

Taken from the Stipendiary Magistrates' Monthly Returns, of the 1st of September, 1841.

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

AFFAIRS OF BRITISH GUIANA.

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Location.	Number.						Deaths.	Number of Sick.	At what Work employed.	For what Wages.	Have they Provision Grounds; do they cultivate them?	What Relationship, if any, exists amongst the Africans. Have they formed any permanent Connexion on Estates or Neighbourhood.	General Remarks.	
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Young Children.									Total.
					Males.	Females.								
Plantation Empore . . .	6	2	2	10	No death.	General work . . .	3 bits to 8 bits.	Not cultivating provision grounds.	2 married couples having 1 child each; no permanent connexion on estate or neighbourhood.	Not working steadily, most of them absent 15 days; did not earn more than 4 dollars each in the last month. The conduct and treatment of these emigrants continue in every way satisfactory; they are comfortably lodged, are paid according to the amount of labour.	
Greenfield . . .	7	1	2	1	..	..	11	Ditto . . .	Ditto . . .	Ditto . . .	Ditto . . .	1 married couple having 3 children; no permanent connexion on estate or neighbourhood.
Turkeyen . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	Ditto . . .	..	..	..	..
Amundale . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	Ditto.	..	..	..	..
Le Resouvenir . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	Ditto.	..	..	..	..
Montrose . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	Ditto.	..	..	..	..
Thomas . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	Ditto.	..	..	..	..
Helana . . .	14	1	..	2	..	1	18	One . . .	Agriculture . . .	6 bits per day, the 2 girls 3 bits.	They have provision grounds, but do not cultivate them.	They are a good deal connected by the ties of relationship; they have not yet formed any permanent connexions.		
Hoff van Aurick . . .	12	5	4	1	..	1	23	None . . .	In the field, buildings, &c.	From 9 to 4 dollars per month.	All have such ground allotted to them, and are partly cultivated.	All of the grown-up women are married with one exception; but they have not formed any connexion with the people of the estate.		
Bathsheba Lust . . .	8	3	4	1	..	..	16	None . . .	Usual work of the estate.	8 to 10 dollars per month, 2 lbs. salt fish.	They have, but do not cultivate them.	All the women are married; the men have not formed any connexion with the women on the estate.
Sophienburg . . .	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	None . . .	General work of the estate.	8 to 10 dollars per month, 2 lbs. salt fish.	They have provision grounds, and they cultivate them.	They have formed connexions on the estate.
Hamburg . . .	8	..	..	..	..	..	8	None . . .	Jobbing and field labour.	11 dollars, and fish.	They have, do not at present work them.	Have not as yet formed any connexions on the estate.
Lima . . .	4	4	1	..	1	1	11	None . . .	Men, field work; women, chiefly about buildings.	4 to 5 bits; 2 to 3 bits.	Grounds given, but partially cultivated as yet.	2 men married, 1 man has a child, 1 woman ditto; no permanent connexion formed as yet on the estate.		
Walton Hall . . .	4	2	..	..	..	..	6	None . . .	Field work.	3 to 5 bits . . .	Ditto . . .	2 men married; no permanent connexion formed as yet on the estate.
Reliance . . .	10	1	..	..	..	..	11	None . . .	Ditto, except 1 man a mason.	..	..	1 married couple; no permanent connexion formed as yet on the estate.
Windsor Castle . . .	2	1	..	..	..	..	3	None . . .	Field work.	..	No grounds as yet applied for.	1 married couple; no permanent connexion formed as yet on the estate.
													All lodged in good cottages; these people joined from Walton Hall, August 5.	

Taken from the Stipendiary Magistrate's Returns of the 1st September, 1841; W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE

Enclosure 4, in No. 37.

RETURN of captured Africans located in District K., County of Berbice, this 31st August, 1841.

Name of Immigrant.	Age, about	Location.	Occupation.	State of Health.	From what Country.	Remarks, as to Lodging, Wages, &c. &c.
Stephen Russell . . .	19	Plantation Bal- thyock.	Field. . .	Good . .	Africa . .	Wages same as other labourers upon the estate, in proportion to the quantity of work performed. Lodging good.
Wilmot Baring . . .	21	"	"	"	"	
George Johnston . . .	25	"	"	"	"	
John . . .	20	"	"	"	"	
Margaret Russell . . .	17	"	"	"	"	
Adelaide Baring . . .	19	"	"	"	"	
Sally Johnston . . .	19	"	"	"	"	
Sinclair Brown . . .	15	"	"	"	"	
Jacob Norton . . .	14	"	Building	"	"	
Felix . . .	14	"	Domestic	"	"	
Hannibal . . .	12	"	Building.	"	"	
Pompey . . .	12	"	"	"	"	
Draper . . .	11	"	"	"	"	
Cæsar . . .	7	"	None . .	"	"	
Elizabeth Young . . .	10	"	None . .	"	"	
Josephine . . .	11	"	Domestic	"	"	
Betsy . . .	8	"	None . .	"	"	
Adriana . . .	7	"	None . .	"	"	
Keane Douglas . . .	18	Plantation Blairmount.	Field. . .	"	"	Wages same as other labourers upon the estate, in proportion to the quantity of work performed. Lodging, the best description of framed and shingled cottages, raised from the ground, and floored, with sleeping rooms above.
Talbot Spencer . . .	18	"	"	"	"	
Graize . . .	19	"	"	"	"	
Frederic Lambton . . .	20	"	"	"	"	
Frank Minto . . .	23	"	"	"	"	
Albert Light . . .	24	"	"	"	"	
Lacy Russell . . .	..	"	"	"	"
Rebecca Russell . . .	23	"	"	"	"	
Sarah Jones . . .	22	"	"	"	"	
Caroline Light . . .	17	"	"	"	"	
Dooloo . . .	18	"	"	"	"	
Heppoo . . .	15	"	"	"	"	
Yemingo . . .	14	"	"	"	"	
Maund . . .	11	"	Domestic	"	"	
Billy . . .	10	"	"	"	"	
Harriet Light . . .	9	"	Light work about the building, with others of the same age.	"	"	
Alice Gray . . .	9	"		"	"	
Mina Russell . . .	7	"		"	"	
Lea Lindsay . . .	12	"		"	"	
Chicumbo . . .	7	"	"	"	"	
Satilla . . .	6	"	"	"	"	
Manuel Byng . . .	25	Plantation Friends.	Field. . .	"	"	The adults earn from 8 to 10 dollars per month, and the others in proportion. They have received suits of clothing, &c., to the amount of 130 dollars, and sufficient allowances of plantains, rice, and fish, weekly. The children working about the yard have proper women to attend them, and care them, and cook for them daily. All the above perquisites at the cost of the proprietors of the estate.
Anthony Hood . . .	25	"	"	"	"	
Sam Jones . . .	24	"	"	"	"	
Maria Hood . . .	18	"	"	"	"	
Isabella Byng . . .	18	"	"	"	"	
Thomas Byng . . .	9	"	Light work about building.	"	"	
Philip Byng . . .	9	"	"	"	"	
Domingo Young . . .	20	"	Field. . .	"	"	
Lucretia Young . . .	24	"	"	"	"	
Mandrama Young . . .	9	"	Building	"	"	
Jane Young . . .	9	"	"	"	"	
Victoria Young . . .	10	"	"	"	"	
Dounda Hood . . .	14	"	"	"	"	
Joachim Hood . . .	7	"	"	"	"	
Petro Hood . . .	10	"	"	"	"	
Jockey Hood . . .	10	"	"	"	"	
Pompey Hood . . .	12	"	"	"	"	
Rosie Jones . . .	18	"	Field. . .	"	"	
Diana Jones . . .	8	"	Building	"	"	
Emma Jones . . .	13	"	"	"	"	
Michael Palmer . . .	15	"	"	"	"	
Theresa Byng . . .	9	"	Light work about building.	"	"	
Anthony Foote . . .	22	Plantation Everton.	Field . .	"	"	Since their location upon the estate, they have each been liberally supplied with clothing, a full allowance of food weekly, and a daily cooked meal of rice and meat.
Thomas French . . .	25	"	"	"	"	
Owen Campbell . . .	17	"	"	"	"	
Archibald Maconochie . . .	30	"	"	"	"	

AFFAIRS OF BRITISH GUIANA.

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Return of captured Africans located in District K, County of Berbice—continued.

Name of Immigrant.	Age, about	Location.	Occupation.	State of Health.	From what Country.	Remarks, as to Lodging, Wages, &c. &c.
George Stobo . . .	14	"	Jobbing . .	Good . . .	Africa . .	to them, and time and assistance to cultivate the same. The adults who have worked in the field have been paid according to tariff of 7½ hours; and the children, for light jobbing, from 1 guilder to 1 guilder 10 cents per week. Three of the men have taken wives, and reside in their own houses; the others have been adopted by the principal people of the estate, as godsons and goddaughters, and lodge with them accordingly.
Thomas Hyslop . . .	12	"	"	"	"	
Richard Fox . . .	10	"	"	"	"	
Daniel Francis . . .	10	"	"	"	"	
James Duncan . . .	9	"	"	"	"	
Tom Welcome . . .	10	"	"	"	"	
Kitty Maconochie . .	30	"	Field . .	"	"	
Clarinda Britton . .	25	"	"	"	"	
Susan French . . .	16	"	"	"	"	
Julia Butler . . .	14	"	Jobbing . .	"	"	
Frances Holmes . . .	10	"	"	"	"	
Rosetta Sibley . . .	18	"	Field . .	"	"	
Diana Foote . . .	17	"	"	"	"	
Maria Samuel . . .	12	"	Jobbing . .	"	"	
Anne Graham . . .	9	"	"	"	"	
Francisco St. John . .	31	Plantation Providence.	Field . .	"	"	
Catherine St. John . .	22	"	"	"	"	The adults earn from 6 to 8 dollars per month each, and the others from 4 to 6 dollars per month.
Maria St. John . . .	9	"	None . .	"	"	
Morgan Smith . . .	23	"	Field . .	"	"	
Juba Smith . . .	20	"	"	"	"	
Walter Smith . . .	8	"	None . .	"	"	
Hart Bent . . .	24	"	Field . .	"	"	
Virginia Bent . . .	17	"	"	"	"	
Luke Clinton . . .	24	"	"	"	"	
Martha Clinton . . .	20	"	"	"	"	
Adam Clinton . . .	12	"	Jobbing . .	"	"	
Ben Granby . . .	24	"	Field . .	"	"	
Grace Granby . . .	17	"	"	"	"	
Hector Granby . . .	11	"	Jobbing . .	"	"	
Spencer Brooke . . .	24	"	Field . .	Sickly . .	"	
Julia Brooke . . .	17	"	"	Good . .	"	
William Graham . . .	20	"	"	"	"	
Dicta Graham . . .	17	"	"	"	"	
Sarah Graham . . .	9	"	None . .	"	"	
Robert Duff . . .	26	"	Field . .	"	"	
George Law . . .	16	"	"	"	"	
Hannah Stevens . . .	8	"	None . .	"	"	
William Adams . . .	10	"	Domestic .	"	"	
Letitia Adams . . .	11	"	"	"	"	

A true Return. Witness my Hand, this 1st day of September, 1841.

C. H. SRAUTT, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Return of Immigrants (captured Africans) located on Plantation Canefield, in District M., August 31st, 1841.

Names.	Ages.	Location.	Occupation.	State of Health.	From what Country.	Remarks, as to Wages, &c.
Arthur Bethune . . .	27	Plantation Canefield.	Field labourer	Good . . .	Africa . .	Came in June, 1841. Referring to my remarks on the Barbadian immigrants located on this estate, I shall only observe that these interesting young immigrants are treated with the utmost kindness and liberality, and appear contented and happy. They are all males, nine over and thirteen under 14 years of age.
George Wolff . . .	22	"	"	"	"	
Romeo Law . . .	18	"	"	"	"	
James Dingwell . . .	17	"	Jobber . .	"	"	
Tom Prince . . .	16	"	Field . .	"	"	
Cornelius Paris . . .	16	"	"	Lame foot .	"	
Julius Henry . . .	15	"	"	Good . .	"	
Aaron Kekerly . . .	15	"	Megass yard.	"	"	
Lucas Pedoris . . .	14	"	"	"	"	
Jacobus Duncan . . .	13	"	"	"	"	
John Bessett . . .	12	"	"	"	"	
Jacob Welcome . . .	11	"	"	"	"	
Tobie Fox . . .	11	"	"	"	"	
John Mars . . .	10	"	"	"	"	
Thomas Buxton . . .	9	"	"	"	"	
Frederic Steele . . .	9	"	"	"	"	
Joseph Lake . . .	9	"	"	Sickly; does no work.	"	
Joe Christian . . .	8	"	"	Good . .	"	
Donald Kirkwood . . .	8	"	"	"	"	
William Fraser . . .	7	"	"	"	"	
Patrick Williams . . .	8	"	"	"	"	

RETURN of Immigrants from Rio de Janeiro, located on Plantation Rose Hall, in District M., August 31st, 1841.

Names.	Ages.	Location.	Occupation.	State of Health.	From what Country.	Remarks, as to Wages, &c.
Surrey Wood . . .	40	Plantation Rose Hall.	Field labourer	Good . . .	Rio de Janeiro	Came in June, 1841.
Peter Clay . . .	35	"	"	"	"	These 22 fine young Africans, the half of whom are under 14 years of age, and the oldest of the other half, with exception only of two, does not exceed 17, are most happily located. They are divided among and are domiciliated with the best conducted Creole families, by whom they are treated with the greatest kindness. They are rapidly learning to speak English, and their countenances bespeak content and happiness. The light work assigned to the oldest of them they perform cheerfully. Of these 22, there are eight men, four women, eight boys, and two girls. The children, being well grown, are very useful at light work.
Horatio Bruce . . .	16	"	"	"	"	
Lambert Armstrong . . .	17	"	"	"	"	
Andrew Grant . . .	14	"	"	"	"	
Robert Schewers . . .	12	"	"	"	"	
Charles M'Kenzie . . .	12	"	"	"	"	
Isaac Cameron . . .	13	"	"	"	"	
Richard Richardson . . .	11	"	"	"	"	
Ned M'Donald . . .	14	"	"	"	"	
Apollo Mathison . . .	11	"	"	"	"	
Wellington M'Kenzie . . .	13	"	"	"	"	
Rodney Gordon . . .	11	"	"	"	"	
Emanuel Kitton . . .	12	"	"	"	"	
Grace Palmer . . .	16	"	"	"	"	
Jane M'Kenzie . . .	15	"	"	"	"	
Rosina Barkly . . .	16	"	"	"	"	
Charlotte Gordon . . .	12	"	"	"	"	
Nanny M'Kenzie . . .	8	"	"	"	"	
Christiana Benjamin . . .	12	"	"	"	"	
Whil. Richardson . . .	14	"	"	"	"	
Idah Rogers . . .	16	"	"	"	"	

W. J. BRITAIN, Stipendiary Magistrate of District M.

(No. 30.)

No. 38.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Governor LIGHT.

Sir,

Downing-street, November 30, 1841.

No. 38.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 123, of the 22d September, transmitting the stipendiary magistrates' returns for British Guiana for the month of August, the summary by Mr. Wolseley, the separate Coolie returns, Africans from Sierra Leone, and of those first brought to the colony in the captured slaver from Rio de Janeiro.

The accounts contained in these several returns are on the whole satisfactory.

It would be desirable to accompany these returns with summaries of the results in other particulars, as well as the complaints (of which a summary is enclosed in your Despatch), and especially with a return, showing the centesimal proportions of mortality and sickness in the several classes of immigrants, as compared with first the whites and second the blacks of the garrison for the same period.

I have, &c.

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

(No. 125.)

No. 39.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, September 30, 1841.

No. 39.

MY Despatches by the previous mails of this month have been dated from the Essequibo.

Independently of my wish to observe the progress of society in that part of the province which I had not visited since February, 1839, I was recommended change of air; I therefore took advantage of an offer of an independent residence on the Arabian coast.

I quitted George Town on the 26th August, and returned from the Essequibo yesterday morning.

I have every reason to believe my visit to the Essequibo has been of use, and not unacceptable, though I have no doubt of personal objections to the utility of the visit.

It is very gratifying to be able to report the extraordinary change I have observed in the bearing and habits of the Creole population, since the 1st August, 1838, in which month I visited Essequibo for the first time. In the following year I repeated my visit.

At those periods, there was hardly a house standing unconnected with the estates. Houses and stores are now numerous, from the eastern to the western points of the coast.

Land has either been leased or offered for sale and lease or sold, on 18 properties, to merchants, mechanics, or labourers, in small lots varying from one-third of an acre to one-half. On these the labourer erects a comfortable cottage, the mechanic a more convenient house, the merchant a dwelling uniting shop and abode.

A short time antecedent to the death of the late governor, Sir Carmichael Smyth, he gave the name of Williams Town, in honour of his late Majesty, to an independent settlement projected by the proprietor of Plantation Aberdeen.

On my first visit to the Essequibo, this was in its infancy, but although the land was only leased for 21 years in lots of one-third of an acre, at very high prices, yet it has now become a respectable village, having six or seven shops or stores, neat residences, cottages, Episcopal chapel for 400 people, and a school, and since the enactment of the rum ordinance, is not without its full share of liquor retail shops. Had the lots of land been freehold, William's Town would have been much larger than it now is, or is likely to become.

A new settlement has been established three miles eastward towards the Essequibo, with better land, larger lots, and smaller prices for freehold than for leasehold at William's Town; it has been eagerly sought by the labourers.

Dagerhaad, Mocha, and Westfield, three estates adjoining each other, having a facade of 1200 yards, have been laid out in regular longitudinal and transverse streets, by the proprietor. Mr. Carberry.

In 1838 these estates were in other hands, most part impenetrable bush, and most fitting lair for the Jaguar or American tiger, still in troublesome numbers on this coast, whence the corruption Arabian—from "arroa," tiger, and "bisoe" coast,—in one of the aboriginal dialects.

Mr. Carberry purchased these estates; and eighteen months ago planned the site of a town divided into half acre lots, in three wide streets on his front lands. Absence from the colony for twelve months prevented any great advance in his plan, but on his return the greatest portion of the land for sale was bought, much of it has been cleared, drained, and many comfortable dwellings erected, surrounded by provision grounds in full bearing, which the fertile nature of the soil has brought to maturity, almost in equal progress with the habitations, and what has struck me as an unknown step in civilization here, more than one cottage has its front and side divisions ornamented with choice flowers, in regular beds and hedge rows.

I consider this style of freehold much more advantageous to the labourers, than the purchase of estates in common. Here every proprietor knows his own. On the lands purchased by a subscription of labourers, division of property is as yet to be made; and consequently a regularity of settlement cannot be expected. I am in great hopes, that the publicity which I have endeavoured to give to the nature of the establishment at Mr. Carberry's estates, which I shall make the subject of another Despatch to your Lordship, will have its effect on the purchasers of estates in common.

The satisfaction I have felt in witnessing the rise of an independent race of freehold labourers, has been much heightened by contrasting in strong colours, the past and present condition of the descendants of Africa.

An old negro was pointed out to me, residing on one of the estates on which the settlement stands. I spoke to the man, still in tolerable vigour of mind and body. He was slave to a former owner, happily not an Englishman, and had taken to the woods to escape oppression; brought back to his master, his punishment was loss of one of his ears, the tendon achilles of each leg cut with a knife, his teeth knocked out, and the marks on his back were such as the worst flogging of the worst times of the British severity of discipline never left on soldier's back.

The patient forgiving temper of the negro is exemplified in this man; the executioner lives on the estate; they are in harmony with each other;

BRITISH GUIANA the sufferer ascribes the fault to the master, whom in the words of the emancipated slave, "God took away, after bringing him to poverty and misery, while I am alive and happy."

The season has been unhealthy, even for Creoles; but the African and descendants of Africa soon recovers from sickness if not a drunkard. The Sierra Leone labourers located on the coast, have rarely been attacked with fever; but the accounts I received of the sickness and mortality amongst the emigrants from Madeira determined me to institute a commission of enquiry into their condition and treatment. The result of the enquiry will be the subject of another Despatch.

I have great satisfaction in stating that not only was the commission of enquiry acceptable to the proprietors and managers of estates where the Portuguese are located, but it was assisted most cordially, and the recommendations of the commission adopted with the greatest cheerfulness.

Much sickness has certainly prevailed, and on one or two estates great mortality; no fault is to be found with the proprietors or managers.

The Portuguese are very filthy in their habits, averse from medicine; no priest being on the coast to encourage them, they desponded at the first attacks of disease. Eager to gain money while in health, they overworked themselves in spite of the remonstrances of their employers, before they were acclimatised, and the most unfavourable circumstance to their well doing, was that the largest number of them have arrived in the colony during the most unhealthy season. It is yet to be seen whether the arrivals from Madeira, during the winter months, will be such sufferers.

Your Lordship has been made aware of the progress of education throughout the colony. On the Essequibo coast schools abound as elsewhere; if not parochial, they are missionary, or established on estates from one end of the district to the other. The Mico charity had been highly successful at Zorg, where upwards of 150 children were taught according to the Mico plan. The withdrawal of the Parliamentary grant has broken up the establishment in this province, but fortunately the Wesleyan Mission has taken over the Zorg school, besides retaining a school at the Mission established at Oena Creek and village; these with several other schools visited either by Mr. Young or myself, are sowing the seeds of advanced civilization, and I am convinced that in the next generation or two, although the colour will not be removed, yet the organisation of the head will be altered, by the gradual development of new faculties through the education now so generally received by the young of both sexes; we shall then hear no more of negro incapacity for higher paths of intellect.

The congregations of the places of worship I attended, either episcopal or missionary, are numerous and attentive, well dressed, though the labourers chiefly in white jackets and trousers, the women in white gowns, with a neatly wound handkerchief as headdress. More expensive attire, both in men and women, was however, common, and the aristocracy of pews is not forgotten, many of the negroes paying from three to five dollars per annum for a sitting.

In conclusion, disputes between employers and employed appeared to be rare, both parties satisfied with each other; and the former not dispirited of their future prospects, nor even inclined to doubt the continuous industry of the labourers. If the current of immigration continue, the deficiency of labour naturally complained of will cease, and the crops of the fertile coast I have just left, will equal the best times of coercion, while those days will be obliterated, or wished by the employers never to have existed, when they become fully sensible of the blessings of free labour.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 126.)

No. 40.

BRITISH GUIANA

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 1st October, 1841.

IN my previous Despatch I have alluded to the new settlement formed by Mr. Carberry on his estates.

No. 40.

It is Mr. Carberry's intention to increase this settlement by laying out additional lots and streets in rear of those in front; the land is so fertile, and offers such advantages to purchasers of lots, that there is little doubt, but in a very short time it will be occupied as fully as are the front lands. This settlement, therefore, bids fair to be a thriving town; it has a natural dam against the encroachments of the sea, in a high sandy ridge extending in front of the public road, has easy drainage, and full supply in all seasons of fresh water.

I did not therefore hesitate to comply with the general wish to confer a name on it; the proprietors were assembled on the 25th instant in presence of the local authorities, and having addressed the former in a speech, of which I have the honour to forward a copy, I publicly named the settlement Queen's Town, in honour of Her Majesty.

The delight expressed by the people at this nomination would, I am convinced, have been gratifying to Her Majesty, and I respectfully hope that my nomination will not be disapproved; more loyal subjects nor better disposed citizens cannot be found to do honour to the name.

As soon as I had signed my name and affixed my seal to the chart of settlement, Mr. Carberry said a few words to the people, stating his intentions of establishing a market, for which he has left space; that as soon as the new streets were sold, he would build a stelling or projecting wharf, by which they could ship the produce of their gardens to Georgetown, and facilitate their intercourse with other parts of the colony; and he concluded by repeating what I had stated, as to the church and residence for a clergyman, who, fortunately, we have been enabled to secure at once, and who being a single man, is at once enabled to occupy the house afforded to him on the settlement.

The result immediately following the ceremony of nomination, was the application for five lots on the new streets by labourers, and by a merchant from Georgetown, of ground for the erection of a store and shambles, preparatory to the market-place to be erected by Mr. Carberry.

This gentleman has been one of the first to see the advantages of an independent class of labourers; he has a valuable estate close to Georgetown, called "The Thomas," fully peopled, in high cultivation, and to him of easy management; yet he has not hesitated to allot a portion of the estate for a free settlement, adding a new and extensive quarter to Georgetown, under the name of Albert Town, in honour of the illustrious Consort of her Majesty.

The annexed copy of Mr. Carberry's letter to the Government Secretary, will best show what is the condition and what the prospects of Albert Town in the short space of four months. Such proofs of the advancement of the general prosperity of the province need no comment. I therefore abstain from making any.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1, in No. 40.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to confer the name of QUEEN'S TOWN on the freehold settlement on the lands of plantations Dageraad, Mocha, and Westfield, in the parish of St. John, in the county of Essequibo.

Encl. 1, in No. 40.

Guiana Public Buildings, British Guiana, 30th September, 1841.

By his Excellency's command,

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

HIS Excellency delivered the following Address to the freeholders of Queen's Town:—
MY FRIENDS,—At your own instance, and also at the request of Edward Carberry, Esq., a liberal proprietor, from whom you have derived your freeholds, you have been assembled to-day to confer, by a formal and official act, a name on the well-planned settlement which the fruits of your past labour have enabled you to acquire, and which is so rapidly thriving by reason of your continued industry.

BRITISH GUIANA

I comply with your wishes with inexpressible satisfaction.

Although but three short years have elapsed from the date of the first act of my administration—your ever memorable emancipation—settlements of labourers as freeholders are no longer uncommon in this flourishing province of her Majesty's West Indian Possessions.

In this county alone, land is now offered for sale or on lease, on no fewer than 18 properties, at prices varying from 208 to 500 dollars per acre for a freehold; and from 35 dollars for one-third of an acre, to 50 dollars per annum per acre for a leasehold.

Your settlement has, however, attracted my attention, independently of your invitation, in more than an ordinary degree. It is peculiarly distinguished for being sufficient for the comforts of your family and the independence of your home; and yet, from its local position and minute subdivision, it must necessarily subserve the public interests, by affording a mart for labour to the neighbouring proprietors of estates.

Upwards of 140 half-acre lots, surveyed by a competent sworn surveyor, regularly laid out with convenient thoroughfares at right angles with each other, at 150 dollars for each uncleared lot, with the great majority of lots already exhibiting well-drained and well-kept gardens, with neat cottages, the least costly of which would be valued at not less than 500 dollars, and erected in the immediate vicinity of valuable sugar cultivation requiring labour; offer a spectacle which cannot but rejoice the mind, and enliven the hopes of every one who desires that the physical condition of his fellow man should be ameliorated, and who is full of confidence that this amelioration, the unquestionable result of personal liberty, is but the preliminary stage towards eliciting those higher faculties of the mind which the Creator implanted in his rational creatures for the express purpose of being developed, at some period or other, of his good Providence.

Yes, my friends, great as has been the improvement of your position in society, you cannot cease to use every exertion that your children, who must in the course of nature succeed you, should far outstrip you in industry, knowledge, and Christian virtue, without being ungrateful to Providence for the good which has befallen you in your generation. For the good you now enjoy was conferred on you as an incentive to grateful efforts in an onward course of good.

Your sons and grandsons ought, through your care and attention, to profit by the favourable position in which they are placed as compared with yourselves. You have done much, they ought to do more; what you have done has been achieved, by God's blessing, on your industry. Look well to it then, that they also be brought up to industry as the sure foundation of success, or at least of content, and as the surest safeguard against trouble and disgrace.

I am sanguine that these are your feelings and sentiments; for not satisfied, and properly not satisfied, with churches, chapels, and schools some few miles from your settlement, you have eagerly and thankfully closed with the offer of your liberal patron, Mr. Carberry, and have promised to assist in putting in order buildings which he is willing to set apart, and place at your disposal, for the due celebration of Divine service and for a school.

To secure you a clergyman I shall, in the name and on the behalf of Her Majesty, contribute for the first twelve months the sum of 100*l.* toward his salary, out of the public monies under my official control.

I now, at your request, publicly give, in honour of her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, the name of "QUEEN'S TOWN" to your settlement; and I sincerely pray that it may ever be characterised, as it now is, by the industry and good conduct of its inhabitants.

After the delivery of the address, the chart of the settlement, with the following inscription, was handed to his Excellency, who affixed to it his seal and signature in the presence of the freeholders.

INSCRIPTION.

AT THE REQUEST OF EDWARD CARBERRY, ESQ.,
Proprietor of Plantations Dageraad, Mocha, and Westfield,
and with the concurrence
of the Freeholders of the Lots of Land on this Chart described,
the Name of

QUEEN'S TOWN

WAS GIVEN TO THIS SETTLEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY HENRY LIGHT, ESQ.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Guiana,
On the 25th day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, 1841.

By his Excellency's Command,
H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

Enclosure 2, in No. 40.

My dear Sir,

September 30, 1841.

Encl. 2, in No. 40.

IN obedience to your request I beg leave to state, for your information, that during the month of June last I laid out one of the fields of Plantation Thomas, which was immediately contiguous to Georgetown, (and which contained 54 acres) in 152 building lots; these lots form a separate township, which I named Albert Town. I have already disposed of 72, at prices varying from 250 to 400 dollars each, they have with only one exception been purchased by labourers or mechanics. I have set apart a piece of land for a market-place, and have

I have no doubt that all those who have purchased lots will have built upon them within BRITISH GUIANA the next six or eight months.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,

&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

(Signed)

EDWARD CARBERRY.

(No. 130.)

No. 41.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, 13th October, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the returns of exportation of the staple commodities for the July quarter, ending 11th October.

No. 41.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,

&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 41.

COLONIAL Produce Shipped from this Colony in the Third Quarter of 1841, as compared with the quantity of the corresponding Quarter of 1840.

Encl. in No. 41.

	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.	Coffee.	Cotton.
	Hogsheads.	Punchons.	Casks.	Pounds.	Bales.
Demerara, 3d Quarter, 1840 . .	7,790	3,318	2,278	272,700	28
Berbice ditto . .	1,870	788	490	255,300	4
	9,660	4,106	2,768	528,000	32
Demerara, 3d Quarter, 1841 . .	4,987	1,669	2,454	188,820	32
Berbice ditto . .	1,655	440	857	161,100	10
	6,642	2,129	3,311	349,920	42
Increase . . .	..	..	543	..	10
Decrease . . .	3,018	1,977	..	178,080	..

Custom House, Demerara, October 11, 1841.

(Signed)

CHARLES ROBINSON, Collector.

(True Copy.)

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

(No. 37.)

No. 42.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Governor Light.

Sir,

Downing-street, 16th December, 1841.

No. 42.

I HAVE received your Despatches, No. 125, of the 30th September, and Nos. 126 and 130, of the 1st and 13th October.

I have read with much satisfaction the accounts contained in Nos. 125 and 126, which tend to show a progressive improvement in the social condition of the labourers in British Guiana, and the early establishment in great comfort of a well conducted and industrious population.

Mr. Carberry's exertions in the formation of an independent peasantry on his estates are highly commendable, and the same course might be followed by other proprietors with advantage to themselves as well as to the labourers.

Her Majesty entirely approves of your having named the new settlement "Queen's Town," and I must beg that you will send home further accounts of the settlement as it advances.

My satisfaction at the state of the colony would be more complete if, amidst the indications of general comfort and prosperity, my attention was not arrested by the fact that the decrease of exportable produce is continuing at a rate alarmingly

BRITISH GUIANA rapid, supposing the returns enclosed in your Despatch, No. 130, to present a fair comparison between the corresponding quarters to which they relate.

I should be glad to be informed whether, in your opinion, the comparison is likely to hold good in respect to the entire years, or whether there are any circumstances which make the comparison by quarters only, an unfair one.

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STANLEY.

(No. 127.)

No. 43.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, October 6, 1841.

No. 43.

IN my Despatch, No. 120, date 11th September, I had the honour of reporting the arrival from Rio de Janeiro of the Venezuela steamer.

Having some doubt of the propriety of locating the captured Africans brought by that vessel previous to their being condemned, I addressed the accompanying minute to the Attorney-General to which is annexed his reply, with copy of the proceedings in Vice-Admiralty Court, relative to the condemnation of the Dous de Fevereiro.

My order for their location having been transmitted to Berbice, I received the communication addressed to the Government Secretary, copy of which is annexed, acquainting me with the measures adopted, and which appear to be most judicious and for the advantage of the Africans.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 43.

Encl. in No. 43.

"If there is any necessity for legal proceedings in regard to the Africans brought from Rio de Janeiro, in the Venezuela, the Attorney-General will lose no time in instituting them."
September 17th, 1841.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

"Lieutenant Johnstone was informed that the Africans could not be proceeded against for condemnation until brought within the jurisdiction of the Admiralty Court, and he was also fully apprised of the necessity of an affidavit of seizure being made by an officer on board the Fawn at the time of the capture, in order to initiate the proceedings before the Admiralty.

"The commander of the Fawn may still send here an officer for this purpose, and thereby secure the head or bounty money to himself, his officers, and men.

"Until this step be taken the officers of the Fawn will receive no benefit from this portion of the prize, and the Africans must be dealt with as free persons and located as his Excellency may deem most advisable."

(Signed)

HENRY GLOSTER, Attorney-General.
18th September, 1841.

(A true Copy.)

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

British Guiana }
to Wit. }

IN THE VICE-ADMIRALTY COURT.

Thursday, 17th June, 1841.

Our Sovereign Lady the Queen against the brig or vessel called the Dous de Fevereiro, otherwise called Duos Teinacus, (whereof Ezequiel Gomes da Silva was master and pilot,) her tackle, apparel, and furniture, and the goods, wares, and merchandize, and the 160 slaves now or lately on board the said brig, taken and seized by Gabriel Johnstone, mate of Her Majesty's brigantine of war, Fawn, by order of John Foote, lieutenant and commander of the said brigantine Fawn, and brought into the port of Berbice in British Guiana, and against all persons in general having or pretending to have any right, title, or interest therein.

In pain of parties cited not appearing, the Queen's advocate returned monition, duly executed and referred to the affidavit of Gabriel Johnstone the seisor, heretofore exhibited and remaining in the registry of this court. The judge at his petition having heard the said affidavit read, on motion of the same on behalf of Her Majesty by interlocutory decree pronounced the said brig or vessel called the Dous de Fevereiro, otherwise called Duos Teinacus, her tackle, apparel, and furniture to have been at the time of the seizure thereof employed in the illegal transporting, removing, carrying, or conveying the said slaves, and the said goods,

wares, and merchandize to have been at the time of the seizure aforesaid on board the said brig or vessel, and the said 160 slaves to have been at the time of the seizure aforesaid on board the said brig or vessel, and illegally kept and detained in slavery contrary to the provisions of the Acts of 5th Geo. IV. cap. 113, and 2nd and 3rd Vict. cap. 73, and as such or otherwise subject and liable to forfeiture, and condemned the said brig or vessel called the Dous de Fevereiro, otherwise called Dous Teimacus, her tackle, apparel, and furniture, and the said goods, wares, and merchandize on board the same, together with 156 of said slaves, (four having died previous to affidavit made,) as forfeited to Our Sovereign Lady the Queen, her heirs and successors accordingly.

(Signed) J. H. BENT, Sole Judge.

In my presence
(Signed) Ellis H. BENT, Registrar, A true Extract from the Assignment Book,
A true Copy of Copy. (Signed) Ellis H. BENT, Registrar.
W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

(No. 90.)

No. 2.

Sir, Office of the Sheriff, Berbice, September 19th, 1841.

WE have now the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his Excellency the Governor's minute of the 10th instant, relative to the location under our direction and advice, of the captured Africans who came by the Venezuela.

These people having arrived in New Amsterdam on Thursday, the 9th instant, and we having had the charge of those who came by the Dous Fevereiro, we did not hesitate to take upon ourselves the responsibility of acting in the present instance without waiting the Governor's instructions, of which we trust his Excellency, under this explanation, will approve, more particularly as the people were all settled much earlier than they could otherwise have been.

We have the honour to report, that we named to these people the estates specified in the margin, and recommended these to their choice, as offering every advantage to them in regard to the liberal care and attention, which would be bestowed upon them, to the proximity of many of the properties to those upon which their relations and friends had been located on the former occasion, and to their immediate vicinity to a place of worship and school.

Our recommendation was generally adopted, some, however, preferred other plantations, owing no doubt to the advice from their own kindred.

We of course made no objection to their selection.

These people have many relations amongst those who came by the Dous Fevereiro, the nature and degree of which, as soon as ascertained, we will communicate for his Excellency's information; in the mean time, we beg to report that we took especial care to re-unite members of families.

Previously to our receiving the Governor's minute, relative to Sir George Jackson's servants, they had gone to Gladstone Hall, the property of Lord Reay; but Sir George Jackson, in his communication to his Excellency, having so particularly and laudably interested himself respecting them, we went to that estate, and explained to them that they might have service in New Amsterdam or Georgetown, and if they wished it, we would procure places for them. Their reply was, "We are glad you have had a letter from our former master; we are much obliged by your offer, we have no wish to go from here; we have found here some of our country people; Congo people we are very happy amongst them. Domingo has taken that woman, and we have taken these children, we don't wish to separate."

The woman and children here spoken of came from Benguela, but preferred going with these servants.

The plan we adopted for their location was to leave all to select from amongst themselves those who should go together.

We will take an early opportunity of transmitting a return of the estates on which they may finally locate themselves. At present they are on the following, viz:—at New Forest 10, Goldstone Hall 11, Reliance 10, Prospect 10, Smithson's Place 11; being 52 in Canje, in addition to 44 of the former arrival.

At Cotton Tree 11, Woodley Park 12, being 23 in close neighbourhood to 39 of those who are at Blairmont and Balthyock; at Eliza and Mary and Skeldon in Courantyne 22, two of these are from Everton.

At Providence 11, Everton 1, the Friends 22, the same estates on which were located 67 from the Dous Fevereiro.

We have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES R. WHINFIELD, Sheriff.
G. G. LOWENFELD, Agent for Immigration, Berbice.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
Government Secretary.

(No. 36.)

No. 44.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Governor LIGHT.

Sir, Downing-street, December 13, 1841.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 127, of the 6th October, and I approve
P

No. 44.

BRITISH GUIANA of the measures which you have taken for the disposal of the captured Africans brought to British Guiana, in the Venezuela steam vessel from Rio de Janeiro.

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STANLEY.

(No. 129.)

No. 45.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, October 13, 1841.

No. 45.

IN a preceding Despatch I had the honour of stating that I had instituted a commission of enquiry into the condition of the Portuguese emigrants, located on the Arabian coast, Essequibo.

The members of the commission living in different parts of the district, some delay has been occasioned in getting the signatures to the fair transcript of the reports, sketched on the spot. On receiving them, I directed they should be published for general information; not only to arrest the attention of the employers of Portuguese emigrants, in other parts of the colony, but to excite them to adopt those measures recommended by the commission, which are likely to add to the comforts of the emigrants, and possibly prevent the progress of acclimatisation from being either severe or fatal.

Copy wanting.

I have the honour to forward a printed copy of the reports, which is preceded by my minute explaining the purport of the enquiry.

The reports give the number of emigrants on each estate visited by the respective members of the commission, the date of arrival on the estates, the deaths, sick, and convalescent, with the addition of separate explanatory letters from the Roman Catholic priest, one of the medical men attached to a portion of the estates, and from Mr. Humphrys, my private secretary, whose opinions I have read with interest, and which lead to this conclusion, that if the mortality proceeds in the ratio contemplated, it may become of serious consideration whether we shall be justifiable in encouraging the emigration from Madeira; in spite of the advantages they obtain here, in comparison with their miserable condition as labourers in their native island.

It must be acknowledged that the season has been hitherto most unfavourable; much sickness even amongst the Creole population, and during the five weeks I was on the Arabian coast every member of my family, including myself and servants, were more or less attacked with fever, and from which some of the party have not yet recovered.

As the stipendiary magistrates' returns are not yet all received, I cannot report on the state of the Portuguese throughout the province; particular returns will be given to that effect. Mr. Strutt has reported that much sickness had prevailed on the only estate in Berbice, where Portuguese had been located; that 15 deaths had occurred; in a succeeding letter, he has reported that the sickness has diminished; copies of extracts from those reports are herewith transmitted.

Your Lordship will perceive in the annexed documents and reports transmitted, that little or no blame, but rather great praise is due to the proprietors and managers of estates on which the Portuguese have been located.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure in No. 45.

Sir,

New Amsterdam, October 1, 1841, (4 o'clock P.M.)

Encl. in No. 45.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that I have just returned from Plantation Everton, and it is my painful duty to report to you, for his Excellency's information, that a most alarming sickness and mortality is prevailing among the immigrants from the island of Madeira, lately located there.

kindest attention are paid to the sick. Two medical men, namely, Drs. Hollingsworth and Collymore, have visited the estate in consultation daily during the week, and the exertions of Mr. Paterson, the manager, have been most praiseworthy and unremitting; the wine, soup, and medicines ordered, are administered by, or in, Mr. Paterson's presence.

I propose visiting Everton in a few days again, and will then, as soon after as practicable, communicate the information I shall have obtained.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young, (Signed) I have, &c.
&c. &c. &c. C. H. STRUTT,
(A true Copy.) Stipendiary Magistrate.
W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

New Amsterdam, Berbice, October 7, 1841.

I HAVE the honour further to report that I have this day visited Plantation Everton, and I have the gratification to add that I found the immigrants from Madeira, of whom I had the honour to make a special communication to you on the 1st instant, much improved in their health, and although two have died since that date, (a woman and boy) I have every reason to hope and to believe that no further mortality will at present occur among them.

I shall make it my duty frequently to see these people, and his Excellency may rely upon receiving a faithful minute of my observations.

(Signed) I have, &c.
(A true Extract.) C. H. STRUTT, Stipendiary Magistrate.
W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

(No. 140.)

No. 46.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, October 24, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of further enquiry into the condition of the Portuguese emigrants from Madeira located in the island of Leguan, Essequibo River, with copy of reply to the stipendiary magistrate employed on the enquiry, written by my desire, by the Government Secretary; to which is affixed a summary of the estates on which the Portuguese are located, their health, and their mortality.

The number of deaths is 39 out of 449, during the last three or four months; not the slightest blame is to be attached to their employers, to whom the labourers are too valuable not to ensure as much care as can be given; but the process of acclimatisation will, I fear, always present the same results, making it doubtful whether white men can successfully be employed in agriculture in this climate; and whether it will be just or consistent with humanity to encourage their introduction—even men inured to heat as are the emigrants from Madeira.

The remarks made by the stipendiary magistrate, pointing out the necessity of establishing district hospitals, coincide entirely with my opinion, which I have expressed in a despatch to your Lordship's predecessor, on the subject of emigration to this colony.

I have the honour to annex a return of the number of emigrants from Madeira, arrived to date October 14, since which about 300 more have landed; the equality of the sexes is well preserved. Many more are expected, and as they will arrive in the most healthy season, their acclimatisation may be less severe.

The total number of emigrants arrived since my proclamation of the 23d January, exceeds 6,000. Amongst the emigrants from the islands, the equality of the sexes is not preserved; nor can they be persuaded to bring their wives till the colony has been tried; this is the excuse given by the captains of vessels who bring them, but I have reason to believe, that the inequality of the sexes will not continue, after the advantages of this province are better known.

The health of the captured Africans, and of the emigrants from Sierra Leone has not suffered by this climate, but the Creoles from the islands are affected sometimes with intermittent fever; generally slight, and of short duration, from which recovered, they are acclimatised.

As the number of emigrants have exceeded what I supposed could be located, it is my duty to state that the prospect of obtaining labourers, has made the proprietors of estates exert themselves in erecting cottages, and being provided with means of location.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley, (Signed) I have, &c.
&c. &c. &c. HENRY LIGHT.

BRITISH GUIANA

Enclosure in No. 46.

Encl. in No. 46.

Immigration Office, Demerara, October 14, 1841.

RETURN of the Number of Emigrants from Madeira, arrived in British Guiana from the 23d January, 1841 (or date of the "Ordinance to Regulate and Encourage Immigration into British Guiana") to date.

Date.	From	Number of Emigrants, viz.—			Remarks.
		Males.	Females.	Total.	
From 23d January to } 14th October, 1841 }	Madeira. . .	1545	1405	2950	

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

HERBERT C. SOUTHEY,
Acting Agent-General for Immigration.

Sir,

District F, Leguan, October 6, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that having a few days ago, in company with the respective medical practitioners of this district, visited all the estates upon which Portuguese emigrants are located, I beg respectfully to annex a statement showing the number originally received upon the properties, the number of deaths since their arrival, as also a few remarks relative to their treatment during sickness, and the manner in which they are accommodated.

PLANTATION CALEDONIA.

The Portuguese emigrants located upon this estate are accommodated in good cottages, well floored. They acknowledge that during sickness every attention is paid to them, and their several wants supplied by the manager. They had no complaints whatever to make. The number received was 40. The deaths from the beginning of July, the period at which they arrived, up to date, have been four. Their present state of health is sickly.

PLANTATION MEERZORG.

The Portuguese emigrants upon this estate are not accommodated in cottages, but occupy one large building, and a smaller one, which have been divided into apartments; each apartment has beds and bedding. They acknowledge being kindly treated during sickness, and they had no complaint to make. The number received upon this estate at the latter end of June and in the beginning of July last consisted of 108 men, women, and children. The deaths since then have been 11 up to date. Their general state of health is still sickly.

PLANTATION NEW BENDORFF.

The Portuguese emigrants upon this estate are accommodated in good cottages; each room is supplied with bed and bedding. They acknowledge being kindly treated, and their wants supplied during sickness. The number which arrived in the middle of September last consisted of 43. No death has occurred upon this property up to date amongst these people since their arrival. They are also very sickly.

PLANTATION FRIENDSHIP.

The Portuguese emigrants upon this property are not accommodated in cottages, but occupy rooms below the overseer's house and the building formerly used as the hospital, which has not been divided into apartments. They acknowledge being kindly treated during their sickness, and have no complaints to make. Cottages will be ready in the course of a few days for their reception. These people arrived upon the estate in the middle of July last, and consisted of 40 in number. The deaths from that time up to date have been seven. They are also very sickly.

PLANTATION SUCCESS.

The Portuguese emigrants upon this estate have superior accommodations in cottages. Each room has a bed and bedding, and there is a hall for each family. These people arrived upon this property upon the 24th July last; the number then consisted of 49; the deaths since that period, up to date, have been nine. The manager of this estate was directed by the proprietor to spare no expense in supplying the wants of these people during sickness, and Mr. Jones, finding that a greater part of them continued sickly, had them removed to Rome and Houston for change of air. Those that remain upon Plantation Success are convalescent.

PLANTATION SARAH.

The Portuguese emigrants upon this estate are accommodated in good cottages, though too great a number occupy one house. This evil is not attributable to the manager, but proceeds from a choice of their own, as there are other cottages appropriated for their use, but they prefer living together. They acknowledge being well treated during their sickness, and had no complaints to make. These emigrants arrived upon this estate upon the 3rd September last, and consisted of 37 in number. Two have died since their location, and some of them are now very sickly. Those that are in health are employed jobbing about the buildings.

PLANTATION BELLE PLAINE.

The Portuguese emigrants who located themselves upon this estate on the 3rd September last consisted of 22 in number. I am happy to state no death has occurred here up to date, but a number of them are sickly. These people are accommodated in comfortable cottages, which are supplied with beds and bedding. Those that are sick acknowledged to be kindly treated, and have no complaints to make. Those that are in health are employed as jobbers about the buildings.

PLANTATION ELIZABETH ANN.

The Portuguese emigrants who located themselves upon this estate on the 3rd September last consisted of 37 in number. Only one has died, but some of them are very sickly. The accommodations are very indifferent, however no dissatisfaction has been expressed. These people acknowledged being kindly treated, and had no complaints to make. I have recommended the manager to put up beds, and to supply them with tables and benches, which he has promised to do. Those that enjoy good health are employed as agriculturists.

PLANTATION ZELANDIA.

The 18 Portuguese emigrants who have recently come to this property are healthy. They are accommodated in cottages, and are principally employed cutting wood upon the estate. No death, up to date, has occurred amongst them.

PLANTATION ENDEAVOUR
(In Hog Island).

Eleven Portuguese emigrants located themselves upon this estate on the 15th August last, and 37 in the beginning of September. Five have died, and a number of those that remain are sickly. The cottages these people occupy are good, and each room has been supplied with beds, bedding, tables, and benches. They expressed themselves thankful to the manager for his attention to them during their sickness, and had no complaints to make relative to their treatment. Three or four of the emigrants upon this estate complained to me, through the interpreter, that the emigration agent at Madeira had misinformed them relative to the amount of daily wages they would receive for a certain proportion of labour. I told them I should represent their complaint to his Excellency the Governor. Those that are in good health are principally employed jobbing about the buildings.

PLANTATION BLENHEIM.

The seven emigrants (Portuguese) who located themselves upon this estate on the 8th ultimo are accommodated in a comfortable cottage, and enjoy, with one or two exceptions, good health. They had no complaint to make. They have been upwards of two months in the colony, and are now employed as jobbers about the buildings. No death, up to date, has occurred amongst them.

As the tide of emigration appears to have set in strongly to the shores of British Guiana within the last few months, and is likely to continue so, especially from Madeira, I respectfully trust his Excellency will pardon me when I continue to make one or two observations regarding the attendance of the medical practitioner upon the emigrants; the manner in which estates' hospitals (where there are any) are at present conducted; and the wants, in many instances, of an efficient interpreter.

Without intending to cast the slightest reflection upon any of the medical gentlemen in this district, it cannot be but observed that some of these practitioners have under their professional charge from 200 to 250 emigrants, located upon estates from 6 to 12 miles from the place of their residence. It is therefore impossible that the physical strength of these gentlemen can enable them to bestow that unremitting attention upon the emigrant which is so essentially required during a first illness in this treacherous climate.

With respect to estates' hospitals, generally speaking, these buildings, which afforded so much comfort to the sick during the apprenticeship, are now either converted into lumber houses or are appropriated to other purposes than those for which they were originally intended. The few that are not so appropriated present very little inducement to the sick emigrant to enter, as not even a bed or bedding is sometimes to be seen. It is therefore not to be wondered at he has such an aversion to become the inmate of a building destitute of the minutest comforts. It is however worthy of remark that at Plantation Success, in this district, where the hospital has been cleanly kept, and beds, bedding, &c., supplied, the Portuguese emigrant, immediately he became sick, went to the hospital to be attended to.

To obviate the evils to which I have alluded, and if possible to prevent such a mortality taking place amongst the emigrants who may betake themselves to this country as that which has unfortunately lately been the case amongst the Portuguese, it may not be considered improper in me to suggest that in each and every district there should be erected, at the public expense, one or more public hospitals for the reception of emigrants when sick, especially as it is the intention of some of the proprietary body, in the beginning of next year, to dispense with the services of a medical practitioner upon the estate.

The loss of an intelligent interpreter upon one or two estates in this district, on which Portuguese emigrants are located, has been much felt, especially by the medical practitioner, who has in some instances been at a loss in ascertaining, for want of knowledge of the language, the exact nature of the complaint or ailment of his patient.

Trusting his Excellency will excuse the length of this communication,

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

WALTER HOWARD WARE, Stipendiary Magistrate.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,

&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

BRITISH GUIANA Sir,

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, 23rd October, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, yesterday, of your letter of the 6th inst. reporting on the state of health of the Portuguese labourers located on estates in the islands of Leguan and Wakenaam, which constitute the district under your charge.

His Excellency desires me to thank you for this report, and to request that you will continue to give close attention to the condition of these emigrants, and to use your best influence to procure for them, both in health and sickness, such necessaries and comforts as may appear to you, with or without complaint from them, to be conducive either to their maintenance in health, or their restoration from sickness.

You will be so good as to see that the cottages at Plantation Friendship are ready, according to promise, for the reception of the Portuguese. In the event of their not being ready, you will recommend the labourers to seek employment where more wholesome lodging may be procurable. The present accommodation afforded to them, as described in your report, has been condemned by the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the situation of the Portuguese on the coast of Essequibo.

You will not fail to look to the fulfilment of the promise of the manager of Plantation Elizabeth Anne to supply beds, tables, and benches.

You will also proceed forthwith to take down the statement, in writing, of the three or four Portuguese who complain at Plantation Endeavour of having been deceived by the emigration agent at Madeira, as it is his Excellency's intention to call upon that officer for a reply to the charge.

His Excellency deeply regrets that out of the 11 estates included in your report, the Portuguese on eight estates should still continue to be sickly, more especially as the mortality appears in three months to have amounted to 39 out of 449.

His Excellency fully concurs with you in the necessity for establishing public district hospitals, to supply the want of estates' hospitals, which formerly it was obligatory on the proprietors to maintain. This subject had, previously to the receipt of your report, engaged his Excellency's attention, and some useful information has already been collected which will enable the Governor to submit a proposition to the Legislature previously to the session of the Combined Court.

W. H. Ware, Esq.
Stipendiary Magistrate.
(True Copy.)

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

PORTUGUESE Emigrants, Islands of Leguan and Wakenaam.
Extracted from the Report of Stipendiary Justice Ware, dated October 6, 1841.

Date of Location.	Name of Plantation.	Number Located.	Number Dead.	Actual State.
1841				
July . . .	Caledonia	40	4	Sickly.
„ . . .	Meerzorg	108	11	Ditto.
September . .	New Bendorff	48	0	Very sickly.
July . . .	Friendship	40	7	Ditto.
July 24 . . .	Success	49	9	Convalescent.
September 3 .	Sarah	37	2	Some very sickly.
„ . . .	Belle Plaine	22	0	A number sickly.
„ . . .	Elizabeth Anne	37	1	Some very sickly.
Recently . .	Plantation Zelandia	18	0	Healthy.
August 15 . .	Plantation Endeavour, 11 }	48	5	A number sickly.
September . .	Ditto 37 }			
September 8 .	Plantation Blenheim	7	0	Good health, with one or two exceptions.
	Total	449	39	

(True Extract.)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

(No. 39.)

No. 47.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Governor LIGHT.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27th December, 1841.

No. 47.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 129, of the 13th October, on the state of the Portuguese immigrants, and your Despatch, No. 140, of the 24th October, further on the same subject, and on the subject of the immigrants generally.

tion, and I beg to express to you the satisfaction which it has been to me to observe the great care and attention which you have paid to the subject, as well as the grounds you have stated for being yourself satisfied with the care taken of the immigrants by their employers. BRITISH GUIANA

I have thought it right to communicate copies of your Despatches to the Portuguese Minister at this Court, and to promise to communicate the further reports which you will no doubt furnish me with from time to time.

I have also stated, with reference to the great distress which is suffered by the immigrants through deprivation of religious offices and consolations, that if the Portuguese Government should be desirous to send a priest of that nation to British Guiana, I trust that you would be enabled, by the assistance of the Combined Court, to provide for his reception and accommodation, and I beg to recommend the subject to your consideration; and I should be glad to learn that, after consultation with the Combined Court, you would enable me to make a definite proposal to the Portuguese Government.

You will, no doubt, continue to pay the most careful attention to the question of the medical attendance furnished to the immigrants, and in addition to any measures which you may adopt for increasing the number of public hospitals and dispensaries, I think it very desirable that, as far as you can, without giving rise to any complaint of official interference with private arrangements, you should bring the subject under the consideration of individual planters, letting it be understood that any advice which may be given by the authorities as to the distribution of immigrants, will be especially guided by the sufficiency of the provision for the sick, made upon the plantation at the expense of the proprietor.

In the report of the Commissioners of Inquiry of the 15th September, and in Mr. Humphrys's letter of the 24th September, it is stated that the Portuguese on Plantation Lima attributed the mortality on that estate in some measure to the immigrants having been kept under close hatches whilst on their voyage, owing to a suspicion of mutiny entertained by the captain. It would be desirable to make inquiry into the circumstances of the case, in order to ascertain whether the conduct of the captain was justifiable.

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STANLEY.

(No. 131.)

No 48.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, 7th October, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival from Sierra Leone, on the 22nd ult., of 225 emigrants in the ship Superior, chartered here, and sent to the above-named colony.

No. 48.

The Superior was 36 days on her passage from Sierra Leone; the number of emigrants embarked 226, therefore one death occurred; and it appears from the letter of the Agent-general, copy of which is herewith annexed, that the deceased was in a bad state of health, and was allowed to embark from humane motives.

The emigrants, though recommended to locate themselves on estates, according to my selection, as the healthiest parts of the colony, and where I had heard of the best accommodation, appear to have been guided by their friends to other places. No inconvenience has arisen from this, and they are thus made sensible of their full freedom of choice.

I have thought it right to transmit to your Lordship copy of a letter from the agent at Sierra Leone to the Agent-general, by which your Lordship will perceive that this colony has every prospect of a large influx of labourers from Sierra Leone. The difficulty will be to obtain regularly an equal portion of the sexes, which, as by the annexed return, is not according to the terms of the Emigration Ordinance.

It is more than probable that as confidence increases as to the advantages of this colony, the disproportion will decrease; it may then be unnecessary to urge the strict enforcement of the law.

Mr. Taylor alludes to the misconduct of some of the delegates sent back from hence to Sierra Leone. This is an accident which will be easily guarded against; the nature of this country is now pretty generally known at Sierra Leone, and therefore it will be unnecessary to send delegates from hence.

A ship has been chartered at Berbice to proceed to Sierra Leone, and I have no

BRITISH GUIANA — doubt will be successful in obtaining emigrants. It is evident the natives of Africa are the most fitted for this country; little or no sickness has occurred amongst those who have lately arrived here, while great sickness, and on some estates great mortality, have occurred amongst the Portuguese from Madeira.

I have, &c.
(Signed) **HENRY LIGHT.**

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 48.

Sir,

Sierra Leone, 12th August, 1841.

Encl. in No. 48.

ACCOMPANYING the emigrants in the ship *Superior*, are the six delegates who returned from Demerara in that ship. Whilst they have been here I have given them the means of subsistence at the rate of one shilling per day. This sum was by no means adequate to their wishes; but as my object throughout has been to do these people strict justice, and yet go upon as economical a plan as I could, I inquired from several people in their own station of life, and found that that sum was quite sufficient.

One of these men, named William Hoare, applied to me, through Captain Dinning, for the sum of 10 dollars, a gratuity which he stated was given to the other men, but which he embarked without receiving, and which I advanced.

I would strongly urge upon the authorities at British Guiana the necessity of not sending these men back as delegates; they are not required, and I found them quite inefficient, and totally useless, with the exception of Tom Freeman, the head Krooman, who has been most active.

One of the men is called Thomas Cole; I have had every reason to be much dissatisfied with his conduct. He has appeared several times before me in a state of intoxication, and has been the source of much annoyance and complaint even from the authorities here. Owing to his misconduct I have not advanced him anything, but I have been well aware that he has had the means of subsistence.

One man came in the *Superior* calling himself a delegate; but as he was not recognized by the headman, Charles Turner, I have refused to hold any communication with him.

Were I to suggest a plan to the authorities at British Guiana, it would be, send back either Tom Freeman or the head Krooman. I send Charles Walker and the headman of the liberated Africans, Charles B. Christian; it would inspire the people here with confidence, and I believe them to be intelligent, sober, and active.

A native of Sierra Leone, by name John Emanuel, who came here with Mr. Dunlop, with high testimonials from members of the Honourable the Court of Policy, has been very active in collecting emigrants; he has laboured under much sickness, but I have had every reason to be satisfied with him since his recovery. Being in absolute want of money, he showed me his credentials, and also a paper signed by the four members of the Honourable the Court of Policy, comprising the Committee for promoting immigration into British Guiana, allowing him a salary of 35 dollars a month; and upon this I have advanced him, altogether, the sum of 16*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* He does not appear willing to return to the West Indies at present; but beyond the nine months specified in the paper I shall not advance him any money, nor should I have done so now until I received instructions, had he not been in a state of utter destitution.

I have found it also necessary to draw on Messrs. M'Garel and Co. (as you will see by the accompanying document) for 23*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, the sum required for the passports for the emigrants by Government, as well as for the other items contained in that amount. I have applied to Messrs. Hiddle and Co., the consignees of the ship *Superior*, to cash the bills I required, and they have agreed to do so. I trust my having advanced money for the passports will meet with approval, as it is the plan adopted by all the other West India emigration agents. The people sell all they have from the moment they receive their tickets, and have barely the means of subsistence until they go on board, and are, therefore, quite unable to afford to pay the required 2*s.* 6*d.* The clothes sent are as much or more than will be required, and the consignees have informed me that they receive directions to supply the immigrants with mats.

Should the authorities not think it necessary to send back any delegates, I am very sanguine as to the result of the next voyage. The emigrants I have embarked, I believe, will be found, for the greatest part, strong healthy labourers. It is true that other ships are freighting, or about to be freighted, for the other West India colonies; but the satisfactory accounts received from the emigrants at Demerara, and the inducements held out in your Despatch by his Excellency Governor Light, particularly to carpenters, have caused hundreds to apply to emigrate whom I could not send by this vessel.

I now can only trust that my exertions will meet with the approval of the authorities at British Guiana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) **RICHARD TAYLOR,**
Immigration Agent of British Guiana.

James Hackett, Esq. &c. &c.

Sir,

Immigration Office, September 23, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to announce, for the information of His Excellency the Governor,

the arrival yesterday morning of the ship Superior, from Sierra Leone, with 225 liberated Africans on board,—all well. BRITISH GUIANA

The Superior had a passage of 36 days; the only casualty occurring during the time being the death of one man, whom, upon investigation, it appears was in a bad state of health when he embarked, which he was only allowed to do, to gratify a wish he had to accompany some of his relatives hither, and in the hope that the voyage might tend to his recovery. All the others arrived in the most excellent health, high spirits; and in regard to appearance, intelligence, and civilization, I think are much superior to this vessel's last party.

I had the ship placed in quarantine, to prevent interference or confusion on board, until I had gone through the muster roll, and personally inspected every individual of the party; after which, I called up all the principal people, and the head men, and addressed them in the name of the Governor, who, I informed them, was out of town, or they would have been welcomed in person by his Excellency himself; but that I was prepared to convey to them his Excellency's recommendation and advice regarding their future locations, as being not only considered the most healthy, but better provided with accommodations, &c. I then read his Excellency's memorandum naming the various estates on which it was proposed they should be advised to go; they appeared very much gratified, and thanked the Governor for his kindness; but it was evident that the head-men or delegates who have returned with them, had already made a different disposition in favour of the estates on which they had themselves been located, and the consequence has been that plantations Lima, Turkeyen, La Resouvenir, Lusignan, and Paradise, have each got a portion, and the remainder (through the exertions of parties who came on board after the yellow flag was taken down) were distributed among the following estates, viz.—Ogle, Belair, Peter's Hall, and Houston.

I regret that I have not been more successful in giving effect to his Excellency's intentions as contemplated by the memorandum, in the allotment and location of these people; but more than urge his Excellency's advice to them I could not do, and they have pleased themselves.

I enclose the Despatches received from Captain Taylor, at Sierra Leone, which appear very satisfactory.

The accounts brought by this ship, hold out the most favourable prospects for British Guiana, as regards emigration from Sierra Leone,—the Africans there giving a decided preference to this colony over either Jamaica or Trinidad,—these latter places they say being much too far away for them.

Could the Superior have accommodated 1000 people, the Captain says he could have got them with ease.

I had nearly forgot to mention the important fact, that of the number now come, about 60 are Kroomen, several of whom have brought their wives, and many more of the same class are waiting to follow.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES HACKET, Agent-General for Immigration.

NOTE.—The Kroomen are not yet located, but I think will be to-day.
The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
&c. &c. &c.

Immigration Office, Demerara, October 10, 1841.

RETURN of Emigrants arrived per Ship Superior from Sierra Leone.

Date of Arrival.	Vessel's Name.	Master.	From	Adults.		Children under 14 years.		Total.		Grand Total.	Remarks.
				Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		
1841 September 23.	Ship "Superior."	Dinning.	Sierra Leone.	144	49	18	14	162	63	225	

His Excellency the Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

HERBERT C. SOUTHEY,
Acting Agent-General for Immigration.

(No. 132)

No. 49.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, October 20, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Hill Coolies Return for September.

No. 49.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Q

MONTHLY Report respecting Hill Coolies in British Guiana, this 1st day of October, 1841.

Plantation.	No. on Estate.			Absentees' Names.	Number of Days Absent.	Deaths since last Report: Names and Dates.	Number of Sick on 31st ultimo, and general State of their Health during past Month.	Particulars and Results of any Complaints preferred in course of the past Month.
	Men.	Women.	Children.					
Belle Vue . . .	56	2	..	Jowhyessing, on leave.	Since June 7th, 1839. 1841.	None .	19. General state of health good.	None.
Wales . . .	49	2	3	Puckerow . . Narrain . . Sunker . . Buldee . . Kudabux . . Supram . .	August 1 September 1 . .. 23 . .. 30 . .. 1 .	None .	14. General state of health good.	None.
Vriedestein . .	22	..	..	Ramjun . .	56	None .	6. General state of health good.	None.
Waterloo . . .	40	..	..	..	..	None .	8. With intermittent fever.	None.
Anna Regina . .	41	3	6	..	..	None .	8. A good deal of fever last month.	One complaint was preferred by a Coolie last month against another Coolie for an assault, which was amicably arranged.
Highbury . . .	92	7	10	None . . .	None . . .	None .	19. General state of health good.	None.

(No. 148.)

No. 50.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to LORD STANLEY.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, November 5, 1841.

No. 50.

I HAVE the honour of forwarding to your Lordship copy of a letter received from Mr. Ouseley, the Emigration Agent for British Guiana at Rio Janeiro, notifying the embarkation on board the barque Lady Rowena, at that port, of a portion of the number of Africans captured by Her Majesty's brig Acorn.

These Africans arrived safely on the 29th ultimo, after a passage of 25 days, without any casualty.

Mr. Ouseley's letter mentions that 308 Africans were placed at his disposal for transport to British Guiana, but only 299 were eventually embarked on board the Lady Rowena, nine of the number having having been again transferred to the receiving ship Crescent, at Rio, as appears from the document hereto annexed, marked 2.

These people were distributed according to the tenor of minutes herewith annexed, marked 3 and 4, and addressed respectively to the Emigration Committee of the Court of Policy, and to the acting Agent-General of Immigration.

I also forward copy of the acting Agent-General's report.

5.

It was absolutely necessary, for the interest of the Africans, that I should make a selection of estates on which to locate them, as their ignorance precluded them from exercising any competent judgment on the subject, and their mistrust might have rendered them discontented with any lesser interference of lesser authority than that of the Governor.

As an instance of this feeling, I may mention that at plantation Vried-en-hoop, they would not accept even of a draught of water from the hands of the Creoles of the estate, unless it were first tasted in their presence. Whatever was proffered by a white man they freely accepted.

They are, and will continue unindentured, and, consequently, should they at any time hereafter desire to change their employer, they will be at liberty to do so; meanwhile I have selected employers for them, in whose justice and benevolence I thought myself justified in confiding, and on whose estates suitable accommodation would be found.

Special periodical reports will be required from the stipendiary magistrates of the districts in which they are located, of their state and condition.

That passage of the acting Agent-General's report in which he mentions the un-

necessary and improper interference of the Honourable Peter Rose, proprietor of Plantation Lima, illustrates the jealous eagerness with which the location of labourers is watched.

I am not aware there was any difference in the mode of distribution adopted in regard to the Africans on board the *Lady Rowena*, and that observed in the previous case of the immigrants from Sierra Leone. Of these some were allotted to Mr. Rose, in the case of the *Lady Rowena* none were allotted to him.

I trust my future accounts of these labourers will be of a satisfactory nature.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 50.

No. 1.

Sir,

British Legation, Rio de Janeiro, October 1, 1841.

SOME weeks ago Her Majesty's brig of war *Acorn* captured and sent into this harbour the Portuguese brig the *Anna*, with about 465 negroes on board.

Encl. in No. 50.

Immediately on her arrival at this port I addressed the letter, a copy of which I have the honour to enclose, to Her Majesty's Envoy at this court, requesting, as Agent for British Guiana, to be informed whether the whole or any portion of those negroes could be placed at my disposal for transmission to Demerara.

No. 1.
Not necessary to be sent.—H. L.

It was then decided that about one-third (150) of the Africans taken in the *Anna*, should be sent in that vessel to the Cape of Good Hope for trial; and the remainder, 308 in number, should be made over to me for a passage to Demerara.

I therefore lost no time in seeking for a suitable vessel for the purpose of carrying them to British Guiana at as low a rate as one of a proper size, duly considering the health and comfort of the passengers she was to convey, could possibly be obtained; and ultimately secured one, on the part of that colony, at the terms contained in the charter party which I now have the honour to forward to your Excellency, and which I trust will meet with your approbation.

No. 2.

It was agreed between the master of the British bark the *Lady Rowena*, William Astley Clayton, and myself, as agent for the colony of British Guiana, that the sum of nine hundred pounds sterling (£900), would be paid him for the use of his vessel; one half of the above sum, four hundred and fifty pounds sterling (£450), to be paid here, in a bill on Messrs. Hall, M'Garel and Company, of London, before his departure, which bill I have accordingly drawn, dated Rio de Janeiro, 30th September, 1841, at 60 days sight, advising Messrs. Hall and Company thereof; and the remainder (£450) to be paid him by your Excellency on his arrival at Demerara.

The necessary stores and fittings were, of course, to be found at the expense of the charterers, for the account thereof, vide my Despatch No. 6, of this date. It was further agreed that he was to receive twenty pounds sterling (£20) at Demerara for the passage of the medical man in charge of the Africans.

The formal recognition by the Brazilian Government of the barque the *Lady Rowena* as a British transport being necessary to secure that vessel from interruption or annoyance on the part of the subaltern authorities here, I requested Mr. Hamilton, Her Majesty's Minister, to apply for it, and ultimately, through his intervention, it was obtained.

Before engaging this vessel, I applied to the Admiral Commander-in-Chief on this station, for a survey to be held on her, to ascertain her fitness for the required service, and herewith transmit the report of the survey held at my request.

No. 3.

Being enjoined by my Instructions if possible to engage a medical man in the event of having to send Africans to Demerara, to proceed thither in charge of them, I caused inquiries to be made, and not without much difficulty succeeded in engaging the services of Mr. Thomas Goodburne. Although Mr. Goodburne has no diploma as a doctor, he is said to have had much experience and knowledge, particularly in the diseases to which Africans are most liable. The terms of the arrangement concluded with that gentleman, to which I request your Excellency's acquiescence, are stated in the inclosed document. You will perceive that I have agreed to his receiving the sum of fifty pounds sterling (£50) as a fee, and the payment of his necessary expenses while at Demerara, until a passage can be found him to Rio, also at the expense of the colony, either directly or via Para, by the monthly steamer to Rio, as most convenient to your Excellency.

No. 4.

I consider it very fortunate that I have been enabled, on this occasion, to engage Mr. Goodburne's services for the present voyage. It would generally be very difficult, if not quite impossible, to find any one at Rio de Janeiro, willing to undertake a similar service, except at a very considerable expense to the colony.

I therefore think it my duty to submit to your Excellency the expediency of making some permanent arrangement with a medical man at Demerara to accompany any vessels which it may be intended in future to send hither for liberated Africans; inasmuch as it is by no means certain that medical assistance, an object of high importance in these cases, could at times be obtained here at any terms, except, perhaps, accidentally, as in the present instance.

Q 2

BRITISH GUIANA

Although the Africans, when captured in the Anna, were, many of them, in a bad state of health, several having died since they were taken, they are now quite free from any contagious diseases, and so much recovered, owing to the care they have met with on board Her Majesty's receiving-ship Crescent, where they have remained six weeks, that, in the opinion of the medical men on board that ship, they are quite well enough for removal, some being likely to derive benefit from the change.

I trust the Africans now sent may reach their destination in health and safety, every possible precaution having been taken here to secure that object, and that the arrangements which I have thought it my duty to make on this occasion may be approved of by your Excellency.

I have to apologize for the length at which I have troubled you; but I thought it right, being the first occasion of sending a large number of Africans to Demerara, to mention some of the details of the duties required in this branch of the service. In future I shall limit myself to a mere statement of the expenses incurred, without further troubling your Excellency with details than circumstances may absolutely require, unless otherwise instructed.

His Excellency Henry Light, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

I have, &c.

H. C. OUSELEY,

Agent for British Guiana.

(True Copy.)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

No. 2.

Received from Mr. W. A. Clayton, master of the ship Lady Rowena, the undermentioned negroes, having been reported as unfit (by Mr. Syme, surgeon) for the passage to Demerara, viz.:—

Man	1
Woman	1
Boys	4
Girls	3
Total	9

Dated at Rio Janeiro, on board the Crescent, this 3rd day of October, 1841.

(Signed)

M. DONELLAN, Lieutenant and Commander.

No. 3.

MEMORANDUM for Mr. Southey, Acting Emigration Agent.

One-third of the Africans on board the Lady Rowena to be sent in equal numbers to the estates of the following persons:—

Abraham Garnett, Esq.,	Cumings Lodge,	East Sea-coast of Demerara.
Sir Michael M'Turk,	ditto	ditto
Alexander Glen, Esq.,	ditto	ditto
George Robertson,	ditto	ditto
Thomas C. Bagot,	River Demerara.	

One-third to Essequibo, viz.:—

Plantation Hoff van Aurich,	Sea-coast, Essequibo.
„ Richmond,	ditto ditto.
„ Reliance,	ditto ditto.
„ Bathsheba's Lust,	ditto ditto.
„ Huist Dieren,	Mouth of River Essequibo.

One-third to be despatched either in the steamer or by a sailing-vessel to Berbice, to the care of Sheriff Whinfield and Mr. Lowenfeld, emigration agents, who will be directed to charge to the estates on which the Africans are located the expenses of their transport from Demerara to Berbice in rateable proportion.

Mr. Southey will accordingly make the necessary arrangements for the above purpose, apprising the agents of the estates in Demerara and Essequibo of the numbers allotted to them.

Mr. Southey will have most scrupulous regard to family connexions, and as far as may be to equality of sexes. The women and men requiring clothing are to have a small supply for immediate use.

Mr. Southey will make a detailed report on this subject.

October 30, 1841.

(Signed)

HENRY LIGHT.

(True Copy.)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

N.B.—Sir Michael M'Turk, Mr. Glen, and Mr. Robertson, declined receiving the captured Africans, not requiring their services, and the distribution was made in terms of Mr. Southey's letter, with the consent of the governor.

(Signed)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

No. 4.

the examination of the accounts; acquaint them that, as many of the Africans, especially the women, are represented to me as requiring clothing, I have instructed the Emigration Agent to cause a decent suit of clothes to be given to each person absolutely requiring it; and that due regard being had to family ties, one-third of the entire number will be sent to each of the counties of British Guiana according to a list which is now in course of preparation."

October 30, 1841.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

(True Copy.)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

No. 5.

Office of Agent-General for Immigration,
Demerara, November 1, 1841.

Sir,

IN compliance with his Excellency the Governor's instructions, I have now the honour to forward you a Return of the number, sexes, apparent ages, the tribe or African name, the location, the state of health, and other particulars regarding the captured Africans arrived in the Lady Rowena on the 29th October, the recapitulation of the distribution of which is as follows, forwarded by schooner Cree to the care of Mr. Sheriff Whinfield, and G. G. Lowenfeld, Esq., Immigration Agent, October 31, 1841.

	Adults.		Under 14 Years.		Total.		Grand Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
County of Berbice . . .	25	24	34	17	59	41	100
County of Essequibo:							100
Plantation Hoff Van Au-	6	7	5	2	11	9	20
rick.							
Plantation Richmond. . .	7	5	4	4	11	9	20
Plantation Reliance . . .	5	5	4	5	9	10	19
Plantation Bathsheba's Lust	6	4	8	3	14	7	21
Plantation Huist Dieren .	11	6	2	..	13	6	19
							99
County of Demerara:							
Plantation Cumings Lodge	6	6	..	8	6	14	20
Plantation Vried en Hoop	15	8	2	..	17	8	25
Plantation Peter's Hall .	5	10	5	1	10	11	21
Plantation Success . . .	10	1	3	5	13	6	19
With Thomas Forrester,	3	..	1	1	4	1	5
Esq.							
In the Colonial Hospital .	4	3	2	1	6	4	10
							100
							Total 299

With the exception of one case of fever, and ten cases of ulcerated sores, the Africans all appeared to enjoy excellent health, and to be extremely comfortable and happy; no death occurred during the passage from Rio to this port, and the only serious case on board was that of a female, now in the colonial hospital, who had undergone an operation in the groin at Rio, and when sent on board the Lady Rowena, was, with many others, from neglect of their ulcers, in a very precarious state; these, under the care of Mr. Goodburne, the medical attendant in charge, were rapidly improving, and I have much pleasure in mentioning the ample proof which the Africans have afforded me of the kindness and attention of this gentleman to them during the voyage. As regards the orthography of the native or African name, I have merely been enabled to put this down in the way that seemed to me best to convey the pronunciation as given me by the interpreter.

This was a young African, Antonio, one of the number, who spoke Portuguese.

I have thus been enabled to communicate the Governor's wishes, and collect the very few families or relationship which I could perceive to exist between these people.

With Mr. Goodburne, I am, however, fully satisfied that not only have no relations been separated in the distribution, but that whenever a wish has been entertained, in consequence of recent companionship, that these should not be separated, it has in every case been complied with, and the happiness and alacrity with which the different parties have proceeded to their locations, has made me confident that my scrupulous regard in this respect has been entirely successful.

At the commencement of my examination, being anxious to furnish some further proof of their identity than, in many instances, the unintelligible name, and the mere number, stamped on tin, and suspended round the neck, would afford, I made a memorandum of any particular marks or appearances; but finding that so great a number were tattooed in precisely the same manner, I deemed it unnecessary to continue these remarks.

In compliance with my instructions, I have furnished each African with such common articles for clothing as was absolutely requisite for their immediate use, upon as reasonable terms as was possible.

To prevent confusion on board, and to enable me the more readily to carry into effect his

BRITISH GUIANA Excellency's instructions regarding their distribution, I placed the *Lady Rowena*, on her arrival, under quarantine, and as the different parties were ready to proceed to their locations, I availed myself of the authority which I conceive is granted me as superintendent of quarantine by the Quarantine Ordinance, of allowing such proprietors or agents only to whom these people were allotted, to come alongside with their vessels, in order to receive their number.

I deem it to be my duty to mention in this place, that, although I was most fully satisfied of the Governor's undoubted authority to allot these people to such estates as his Excellency thought fit, yet, conceiving myself to be in many respects under the direction, and acting with, the Committee for Immigration, I have felt myself to be peculiarly circumstanced on this occasion, in consequence of the Hon. Mr. Rose officially informing me, alongside the vessel, that the course of procedure which I was adopting was illegal, and that I was making myself responsible for any expenses incurred in the clothing or transshipment, &c., of the Africans.

Several persons also demanded access to these people, observing that, under the Immigration Ordinance referred to, if the Africans were willing to be employed by them, the Governor had not authority to prohibit them from doing so.

In reply, I did not fail to point out the distinct and very great difference in the situation of the present captured Africans, and immigrants arriving in the ordinary way. I have thus experienced some difficulty in carrying into effect his Excellency's instructions regarding the distribution, which, however, was completed this morning as nearly as was practicable in accordance thereto, and to the best of my judgment.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young, (Signed) I have, &c.,
Government Secretary. HERBERT C. SOUTHEY,
Acting Agent-General for Immigration.
(True Copy.)
H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

(No. 40.)

No. 51.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Governor LIGHT.

Sir,

Downing-street, January 1, 1842.

No. 51.

I HAVE received your Despatch and its enclosures, No. 148, of the 5th November, reporting the arrival at British Guiana, of 299 liberated Africans from Rio de Janeiro.

I observe with satisfaction the precautions which were taken for ensuring the health and comfort of the Africans in their passage from Rio, and I approve of the arrangements sanctioned by yourself for their location in the colony.

I have, &c.,
Governor Light, (Signed) STANLEY.
&c. &c.

(No. 149.)

No. 52.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, November 8, 1841.

No. 52.

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a letter I received from the consul at the Havannah, requiring information to enable him to judge of the propriety of sending captured Africans to this colony.

My answer to that functionary merely encloses the memorandum from the Emigration Committee, which for the present I have allowed to exist, pointing out what advantages are offered by this colony—of this I have the honour to forward copy.

I believe no colony has acted so liberally as this, to secure a supply of emigrants, and I trust Mr. Turnbull will see that he may safely transfer to this colony whatever portion of the captured Africans may be at his disposal.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley. I have, &c., (Signed) HENRY LIGHT.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 52.

Encl. in No. 52. Sir,

Her Majesty's Consulate, Havana, September 4, 1841.

FROM the Despatch of the Secretary of State, of which I have the honour to enclose a

JAN 4 1842

subject: and I need hardly say that I put them on the supposition, *sine qua non*, of such an addition to your labouring population being regarded as desirable in the colony under your Excellency's government. Assuming this to be the case from what has been stated by Lord John Russell, in the enclosed despatch, I proceed to observe that according to my understanding of the duties assigned to me in this matter, I ought to be guided in the choice of a colony to which to remove these unfortunate persons, by three general considerations; and these pretty nearly in the following order:—

- I. The greatest good to the liberated Africans themselves; and this will necessarily embrace the more general interests of civilization and humanity.
- II. The greatest capability on the part of the colony selected, of deriving immediate benefit from such an accession to its labouring population.
- III. The greatest economy to the mother country.

Under the first of these heads it appears to me that the most urgent want of a cargo of Africans on landing in any colony from the slaver, or the transport in which they are brought, is sufficient hospital accommodation. I should be glad to know therefore the number of beds disposable for such purpose on the average of the year, and their locality with reference to the port where the Africans ought to be landed.

The mere existence of an adequate demand for labour as measured by the ordinary market rate of wages, may possibly be sufficient to prove the presence of all the other desiderata which the first of these general considerations supposes. I desire therefore to know the average rate of wages for field labour throughout the year; whether that rate be exclusive of rent, and what is the ordinary rent of an agricultural labourer's cottage, with half an acre of garden ground attached.

I beg to be informed also whether field labour is usually paid by the day or the piece; and if both ways, as near as may be, in what proportions. If by the day, how many hours go to a day's work, in crop and out of crop respectively, If by the piece, then I beg to be favoured with a table or tariff of the customary rates, and an estimate of the earnings of a labourer of ordinary industry.

I desire also to know what means are provided at the public expense for the moral, religious, and intellectual improvement of the labouring classes.

Under the second general head of inquiry, I venture to hope that your Excellency will be good enough to mention such grounds of preference as may present themselves in favour of the colony under your Excellency's government.

And finally, if for no other purpose than to serve as a test of the validity, and a measure of the value of the other grounds of selection, I take the liberty of inquiring whether the colonial treasury will undertake to relieve Her Majesty's Government of the whole charge of maintaining the liberated Africans from the date of the decree of emancipation by the Mixed Commission; together with the expense of their removal to the colony under your Excellency's government; and if not the whole, then what proportion of that expense.

My object in making these inquiries is doubtless sufficiently apparent. Convinced that the sugar colonies of Great Britain are destined to derive a large accession to their labouring population from those countries where slavery shall be longest maintained, I am desirous, in so far as my duties are concerned, to establish a competition for the boon at my disposal, and to give it to such of our colonies as shall agree first of all to offer the best terms to the unfortunate victims of the slave trade, and afterwards, *cæteris paribus*, to those who are themselves to derive the greatest advantage from it, or who are ready to relieve the Government of the largest share of the expense.

For my farther guidance in this matter, I pray your Excellency to supply me with copies of all such colonial laws and regulations as in any way affect the condition of the humbler classes of society.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency the Governor of British Guiana,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

D. TURNBULL.

Sir,

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, October 27, 1841,

I AM desired by his Excellency, Governor Light, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th ultimo, and to forward for your information a report received from the Immigration Committee of the legislature of this province, containing, as his Excellency hopes you will consider them, satisfactory replies to the queries which you have proposed. Enclosed you will also receive copies of various laws affecting the humbler classes of society in this country; the relation of employer and employed is under the special and exclusive jurisdiction of stipendiary magistrates appointed by the Crown, and for whom permanent provision has been made for the next seven years.

The inferior criminal courts are presided over by a sheriff appointed by the Crown and are composed of the general magistracy of the colony, in whose commission the stipendiaries are included.

Indeed, by far the greatest portion of the magisterial business of the colony is practically performed by paid servants of the Government.

His Excellency desires me to assure you, that in his opinion the welfare of the labourer (in the most extended sense of the word welfare) is perhaps better secured in British Guiana than in any other part of the West Indies.

I have, &c.,

D. Turnbull, Esq.,
&c. &c.

(Signed)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

BRITISH GUIANA

COMMITTEE for IMMIGRATION.

Committee Chambers, Public Buildings, Georgetown,
Demerara, October 25, 1841.

THE Immigration Committee have the honour to acknowledge the receipt from his Excellency the Governor of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Consulate at Havana, with certain queries therein relative to the disposal of liberated Africans, and the prospect of their advantageous employment and location in British Guiana; under reply the Committee have the honour to report.

No. 1. That the fertility of the soil of British Guiana, and the extent of land on the estates already possessing buildings and machinery, insure to labourers constant employment at rates of wages beyond what less favoured colonies could afford to pay; consequently, as regards remuneration for labour, British Guiana may be viewed as affording the greatest prospect of benefit to the immigrant. British Guiana presents other advantages, amongst which the following may be enumerated.

Religious instruction administered at 57 places of public worship. Each parish has at least two parochial schools under the superintendence of the minister. Each missionary has a school attached to his domicile, and nearly all the principal plantations in the colony, if at a distance from the schools, maintain a school for the instruction of their labourers' children free of expense.

An annual grant has been made by the colony in aid of the education of children of the labouring population in the rural districts, amounting to 13,333 dollars.

No. 2. The great capability of the colony to derive immediate benefit from an accession to its labouring population, arises from the great number of estates already settled, affording employment for additional labourers, with the concomitant advantages of steam machinery and universal water carriage, together with extensive sugar works, and numerous cottages and rural residences recently erected for the accommodation of labourers requisite to draw forth the resources of the colony.

No. 3. All expenses to the mother country for the maintenance and support of liberated Africans, would cease from the day of their embarkation at the port of adjudication.

The mode of conveyance to British Guiana may be either by chartered vessels at the rate of 30 dollars per head, as stated in his Excellency the Governor's proclamation, the vessels providing the fittings up and all provisions for the voyage; or by the colonial steamer to be despatched for the purpose at stated periods to be named by Her Majesty's Consul-General.

The expense of the several cargoes of liberated Africans to this colony from Rio Janeiro and Sierra Leone, having been so defrayed, and ample means have been provided for continuing further importations.

No. 4. The colony of British Guiana has a very large establishment in the immediate vicinity of the capital town for the reception of all immigrants, in addition to which in the town itself an extensive hospital is kept up at the public expense, and in charge of the colonial surgeon-general and resident surgeons, for reception of the sick. The hospital contains not less than perhaps 180 beds, the same accommodation upon an adequate scale is provided under the charge of the sub-immigrant agent at the port of New Amsterdam, in the county of Berbice.

The average rate of wages for agricultural labourers is about 5-12ths of a dollar per task, a day's task is understood to be seven hours, but is generally performed in four to five hours by an industrious man; any extra time or labour is paid for additional.

In British Guiana there is no particular period for crop, and the same rate of wages applies all the year round.

House-room, garden ground, medicine, and medical attendance, have hitherto been granted free; all other requisites are provided by the labourers themselves.

It is the general practice to furnish the immigrant labourers on estates with the first week's maintenance free, and then to pay them their week's earnings, that they may provide for themselves by purchase from the provision shops, which are established throughout all parts of the colony. Steam vessels ply daily between the towns and the country districts, and upon the great rivers of the colony. The towns and villages afford ready markets for any superabundance of ground provisions and stock, which the labourers have to dispose of from the produce of their industry in the hours they have to spare after labouring on the work of the estates on which they are respectively located.

(Signed)

CHARLES ROBINSON,
PETER ROSE,
JOHN CRONE,
W. J. F. BACH.

(A true Copy.)

(No. 154.)

No. 53.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, November 20, 1841.

No. 53.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a petition addressed to me by a considerable number of proprietors and others, containing a request that I would introduce an Ordinance, establishing the mutual protection of landlord and tenant.

The petition contains reasons, in which I coincide, for passing such an ordinance.

I have directed the Attorney and Solicitor-general to draft a bill, which will be submitted to the Court of Policy in the course of a fortnight, to which period the Court at present stands adjourned. BRITISH GUIANA
—

I have alluded to the probability of my receiving such a petition, as that now transmitted, in my Despatch, No. 85, date 19th July, and I have no doubt that a well digested law of tenancy will be highly beneficial to all parties.

I have the honour of transmitting copy of the reply, given by my desire, to the petitioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 53.

To his Excellency HENRY LIGHT, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, Vice Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c., &c., &c. Encl. in No. 53.

The humble Petition of the Undersigned Proprietors, Managers, and others, interested in the Agriculture of the Colony.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH,

That your petitioners having acquired nearly three years' experience of the working of the system adopted generally for the management of plantations in this colony, after the abolition of the apprenticeship, are firmly impressed with the conviction that a radical error was committed, in retaining the custom of giving to agricultural labourers their houses and provision grounds rent free, which ought, for the mutual interest of employer and labourer, to have expired with the apprenticeship.

That guided by experience, your petitioners are fully convinced that it is most desirable to render the labourer wholly independent of any claim upon his employer, except for the money value of his labour; and that the sooner he is thrown upon his own resources, to supply himself with house, food, and all incidental expenses, the better it will be for himself, his employer, and the community at large; and your petitioners are firmly convinced that a large proportion of the labouring population, having now arrived at a higher step in the scale of civilisation, are themselves very desirous of such an alteration.

That in order to effect the proposed amendment with as little derangement of plantation economy as possible, your petitioners contemplate as necessary the following preliminary measure, namely,—

That provision be made by Ordinance for the mutual protection of landlord and tenant, enabling the former by a summary and unexpensive process, to recover possession of his house or land from a tenant who does not pay his stipulated rent, and securing the latter from capricious ejectment without reasonable notice; as the basis of which it is suggested that a weekly tenancy should be terminable by either party by a week's notice; a monthly tenancy by a month's notice; and a tenancy for any longer term by a quarter's or a half year's notice; arrears for more than two terms not to be recoverable by law; the landlord having a lien, however, on the property on the premises for his rent.

That your petitioners humbly beg to represent, that in suggesting this measure, they anticipate no inconvenience to either party affected by its operation; it being left entirely optional with all to abide by the present, or to enter into arrangements according to the proposed system.

That your petitioners deeply impressed with the importance of the means which they recommend for the advancement of the colony, as being equally beneficial to the employer and labourer; viewed in relation to future prosperity, as well as to the more immediate effect in restoring the amount of its staple productions, by bringing back to their cultivation many labourers, who within the last three years have wholly or partially withdrawn themselves from it, thus rendering the colony less dependent upon immigration, the expenses of which now press so heavily upon the treasury—

Humbly solicit that your Excellency will be pleased to take into favourable consideration the premises herein recited, and at the earliest convenient occasion, bring the exigency of the case, and the remedy proposed by your petitioners under the notice of the Honourable Court of Policy.

And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

(Signed)	John Alves. Geo. Laing. E. Hicks. J. Chisholm, jun. James Laing. James Kirkwood, by his Attorney. James Laing. Chas. Matheson. A. MacRae.	E. J. Troughton, sen. John Pearson. R. G. Butts. John Jones. Colin Simson. James Stuart. A. B. Goring. John Kilgour. W. R. Sanbach. R. Mackay.
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R

BRITISH GUIANA

Robt C. Beete.
Geo. Booker,
J. N. Harvey.
James E. Roney.
W. P. Reid.
E. Bishop.
C. Reeves.
W. G. Foote.
John Beete.
James Glen.
J. H. Albony.
Geo. Robertson.
Donald Mackintosh.

Peter M. Watson.
Geo. H. Loxdale.
S. H. Hooln Van Nooten.
A. Duff.
John Ross.
D. Baird, jun.
Thomas Blake.
Jas. Paterson.
Wm. M'Pherson.
John Corn. Schade.
John T. Osborn.
John Bamber.

British Guiana, June, 1841.

Sir,

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, November 18, 1841.

HAVING submitted to the Governor, the petition which I had yesterday the honour of receiving from you, signed by certain proprietors, managers, and others interested in the agriculture of the colony, I am desired by his Excellency to request that you will acquaint the petitioners that the provision by ordinance which they wish to see established for the mutual protection of landlord and tenant, will receive his Excellency's early and favourable consideration.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

H. E. F. YOUNG,
Government Secretary.

W. R. Sandbach, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 155.)

No. 54.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, November 20, 1841.

No. 54.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the monthly returns of the stipendiary magistrates for the month of October, with summary by Mr. Wolseley.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 54.

Encl. in No. 54.

EPITOME of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints for October, 1841.

Magistrates.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Offences.	How disposed of.
J. M'Leod . . .	..	. . . . .	. . . . .
A. van R. de Groot . . .	..	. . . . .	. . . . .
W. J. Brittain . . .	..	. . . . .	. . . . .
C. R. Whinfield . . .	..	. . . . .	. . . . .
A. M. Lyons . . .	4	1 Complaint preferred by the foreman of a task gang against the manager of an estate for the recovery of wages.	Claim admitted; award accordingly, with suitable compensation for time lost in attendance before the magistrate.
		1 Carpenter <i>versus</i> carpenter, to obtain payment for work performed.	Ditto.
		1 Bricklayer <i>versus</i> bricklayer, to obtain payment for work performed.	Adjusted out of court.
		1 Plantation labourer against the manager of an estate for the recovery of wages.	Complainant's evidence disproved; the claim and the case was dismissed.
J. A. Allen . . .	6	1 A cook against his employer for an assault.	10½ dollars awarded to the complainant.
		1 Plantation labourer against his employer, to obtain payment of wages alleged to be due.	9½ dollars found due, and ordered to be paid.
		1 A groom against his employer, for having locked up his house, whereby he had to seek a night's lodging elsewhere.	Amicably adjusted.
		1 A female labourer against the manager of an estate, for threatening a forcible ejectment.	Complainant allowed to take down her house and to dispose of the materials.

Epitome of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records—continued.

BRITISH GUIANA

Magistrates.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Offences.	How disposed of.
		1 Complaint preferred by a labourer against his manager, for the recovery of wages.	Complainant not appearing to prosecute, case dismissed.
		1 Carpenter <i>versus</i> carpenter, for the recovery of wages.	Time allowed for payment.
T. Coleman . . .	2	1 Manager of an estate against a labourer, for the wilful destruction of more than 100 young canes.	Defendant admitted the charge, and was sentenced to pay a fine of five dollars.
		1 Manager of a task-gang against contractor for work performed on a public canal.	Payment ordered.
Geo. Ball	4	3 Carpenters <i>versus</i> carpenters, about wages.	In one, judgment; others amicably settled.
		1 Domestic servant <i>versus</i> her mistress, about wages.	Amicably settled.
C. H. Strutt . . .	3	1 Domestic servant <i>versus</i> his master, about wages.	Settled on payment of the value of a lost spoon.
		1 Carpenter <i>versus</i> carpenter, about wages.	Part paid, time allowed for the remainder.
		1 Midwife <i>versus</i> domestic servant, about wages.	Time allowed for payment.
J. O. L. Mure . .	2	1 By labourer against employer, to recover wages withheld for house-rent.	Amount claimed ordered to be paid.
		1 By labourer against employer, claiming three weeks' wages.	The complainant had been forbidden to work, and could but legally recover one day's wages.
D. M'Lennan . . .	12	7 Complaints preferred by labourers against their employers for the recovery of wages.	In five cases, judgment for the amounts claimed; two dismissed as groundless.
		1 Manager of an estate against three of the crew of the estate's drogher for desertion and getting aground.	Sentenced to pay 12 dollars each.
		1 Jobbing carpenter against master carpenter, for wages.	Adjusted.
		1 Jobbing mason against planter, for wages.	Submitted to arbitration.
		1 Task gang manager against planter, for wages.	Settled extra-judicially.
		1 Subordinate engineer <i>versus</i> his principal, for wages.	Accused party not to be found.
W. H. Ware . . .	4	3 A washerwoman and two carpenters against their employers, for the recovery of wages.	Sums claimed ordered to be paid, with compensation to each in proportion to time lost.
		1 Labourer against employer, for an assault.	Accused to pay six dollars to complainant.
W. J. Sandiford .	1	1 Alleged ill usage of four Portuguese labourers by an estate's overseer, and non-payment of wages.	Wages ordered to be paid, with 7½ dollars, to each of the complainants by way of compensation.
K. Heyland, (Georgetown district.)	61	55 Master artificers and journeymen, about wages.	Six dismissed; others variously adjusted.
		2 Master artificers against apprentices for absconding.	Reprimanded.
		1 Apprentice against master, to obtain clothing.	Clothing ordered.
		2 Masters <i>versus</i> house servants, for neglect of duty.	One withdrawn; one reprimanded.
		1 Plantation overseer against a labourer, for destruction of property.	Accused sentenced to one week's imprisonment.

SUMMARY of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints for the month of October, 1841.

Messrs. M'Leod, De Groot, Brittain, and Whinfield report that they had no cases between masters and servants, preferred before them during the month of October.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Lyons record contains four cases, instituted for the recovery of wages; the first is a complaint preferred by the foreman of a task-gang, against the manager of an estate, in which the claim was admitted, and an award made accordingly, with suitable compensation for the time lost in attending before the magistrate. In the second case which was preferred by one carpenter against another, the claim was likewise admitted and disposed of in the same manner; the next case, between two bricklayers, was adjusted out of court; and in the last case, which was preferred by a labourer against the manager of an estate, the complainant's own evidence disproved the claim, and the case was dismissed.

BRITISH GUIANA

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Allen's record, contains six cases, of which five are complaints preferred by plantation labourers against the managers of the estates on which they were respectively employed, and the other is a case between two carpenters, to obtain payment for work alleged to have been done, and for which, owing to the want of funds, time was allowed to the defendant. Of the five cases previously mentioned, the first was for an assault, the complainant being defendant's cook, to whom he (defendant) had given a severe blow on the head, the case was settled by the payment of 10½ dollars to the complainant, for the assault. The second case originated in a dispute between master and servant, the latter having refused to do the work required of him and the former, in consequence, to pay him the wages he claimed; the pay-book being produced the sum of 9½ dollars was found to be due to the complainant, and ordered to be paid. The third case was a complaint preferred by a groom against his master in which it appeared that the complainant not being in the way when he was wanted, his master locked up his room, whereby, for one night, he and his wife were obliged to look elsewhere for a lodging. This case was amicably settled, the magistrate finding that any other result would have led to the complainant's dismissal. In the fourth case the complainant, a female labourer, represented as an old servant, disabled in the service of the estate, charged her employer with causing some articles, her property, to be put out of her house, and giving orders that the house should be pulled down; the defence was that the complainant insisted upon occupying the house, and refused to quit the estate, the charges were, however, not proved, and the case was dismissed, it being understood that the complainant would be allowed to take down the building and dispose of the materials, she having been chiefly at the expense of erecting it.

NOTE.—As it is not a common occurrence in this colony for “an old servant disabled in service of an estate,” to be turned off without some good grounds, further explanation has been called for in reference to this case.

In the next and last case, which was a claim for wages, the complainant did not appear to prosecute, and the case was dismissed.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Coleman's record contains two cases; the first is a complaint preferred by the manager of an estate against a labourer, charging him with the wilful destruction of upwards of 100 young canes, when weeding in the cane-field, the defendant admitted the charge, the canes being produced in court, and was sentenced to pay a fine of five dollars. The next case was preferred by the manager of a task-gang, to obtain payment from the contractor for work performed on one of the public canals—payment ordered.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Ball's record contains four cases for the recovery of wages, of which three are between carpenters, and the other a complaint preferred by a domestic servant against her mistress; in the first case the defendant failed to appear, and judgment was given for the amount claimed, with one dollar additional by way of compensation; the others were all amicably adjusted.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Strutt's record contains three cases for the recovery of wages or monies alleged to be due, all occurring in the town of New Amsterdam; the first was preferred by a house servant against his master, in which the right to the value of a spoon lost by the complainant was maintained and agreed to, and the balance of wages then paid. The next complaint was between two carpenters, in which the claim was admitted, partly paid, and time allowed to settle the balance. The last complaint was preferred by a midwife against a domestic servant, the husband of a person whom the complainant had attended in her confinement; want of funds pleaded in excuse, and a fortnight allowed for payment.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Mure's record contains two cases of complaints, preferred by two female plantation labourers against managers of estates for the recovery of wages. In the first case it appeared that the employer had deducted half a dollar from the amount that was due to the complainant by way of house rent for three days that she was absent from work; the employer maintained that he had given due notice to his labourers, that from and after a certain time already elapsed, he should charge two bits (or one-sixth of a dollar) per day house rent, to every labourer, who, without sufficient cause, should be absent from work, and at the same time in possession of a cottage or lodging on the estate; there being no sufficient proof, however, that this arrangement was understood and agreed to by the complainant, the amount deducted was ordered forthwith to be paid, the magistrate taking the opportunity of explaining to the labourers that their employer might insist upon rent for his houses if he thought proper to do so, as they might, if dissatisfied, seek employment elsewhere. In the second case the defence was to the effect, that the complainant was not hired to work for the estate, but on the contrary, after having worked there one day, was expressly told that she would not be employed; she worked nevertheless for three weeks, and though entitled in equity to be paid, the magistrate had no power legally to award payment for more than one day's work. In most cases of this kind, the magistrate's endeavours to bring about an equitable adjustment, seldom fail of success, though in the present instance these were defeated, as it appears, from an injudicious attempt at mediation.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice M'Lennan's record contains 12 cases, of which seven were preferred by plantation labourers against their employers for the recovery of wages; one by the manager of an estate against three of the crew of his drogher for deserting her, and thereby causing the vessel to get aground; one by the manager of a task-gang against a planter for work performed; one by a jobbing carpenter against a master carpenter for the same object; another by a mason against the manager of an estate for a similar purpose; and the remaining case was preferred by a subordinate engineer against his principal for the recovery of wages due, as alleged, as far back as August, 1840. Of the first seven cases two were dismissed as groundless; and in five judgment was given for the amounts claimed, with suitable compensation to

the complainants for the time they had lost in preferring and substantiating their claims. In the case of the crew through whose negligence their vessel had got on shore, the accused were sentenced to pay a fine of 12 dollars each for the benefit of their employer; the next case was settled extra-judicially; of the two following cases the first was adjusted, and the other submitted to arbitration; and in the last case the party accused was not to be found.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Ware's record contains four cases of complaints, of which three were for the recovery of wages. The first preferred by a washerwoman against an overseer; the other two by journeymen carpenters against master carpenters; in all of which the sums claimed were ordered to be paid, with compensation to each in proportion to the time lost in attending at the magistrate's office; the last case is for an assault preferred by a plantation labourer against his employer, who admitted to have given the complainant a blow with a stick, and was sentenced to pay to him the sum of six dollars.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Sandiford's record contains one case, in which four Portuguese emigrants preferred a charge of ill-usage and non-payment of wages against the overseer of the estate on which they were employed as labourers, and for which he was sentenced to pay to each of the complainants seven and one-third dollars in addition to the arrears of wages, amounting in the aggregate to the sum of five dollars. The ill-usage consisted of the complainants having been brought to town, landed on a public wharf, and there left at a time when they were suffering from illness, and ought to have been conducted to the colonial hospital.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Heyland's record for the Georgetown district contains 61 cases, of which 55 were complaints preferred for the adjustment of wages, principally between master artificers and their journeymen; two were preferred by master tradesmen against their apprentice boys for absconding; one by an apprentice boy against his master for not furnishing him with clothing; two by masters against their domestic servants for neglect of duty; and one, the only case not occurring within the town, a complaint preferred by the overseer of an estate against one of the labourers for pulling down and removing a kitchen attached to the cottage of which he had the occupancy, for cutting down a lime-tree, and digging up several plantain and banana roots. It appeared in evidence that the kitchen was erected in the time of slavery at the expense of the accused, and that the trees had been planted by him; he should, therefore, have applied to the magistrate of the district, by whom an award would have been made according to the value of the property, as has been the practice in cases of a similar description. In consequence of having taken the law into his own hands, he was sentenced to one week's imprisonment. Of the cases previously adverted to in this record, six were dismissed, one withdrawn, and the others disposed of according to the evidence.

Respectfully submitted by
W. B. WOLSELEY,
Circuit Stipendiary Magistrate.

(No. 157.)

No. 55.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 22d November, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the special returns of the state of the Coolies, the captured Africans, the emigrants from Sierra Leone, and of the Portuguese emigrants from Madeira.

There have been no casualties amongst the Coolies, and their general health continues good; that of the Africans perfect. One death only has taken place since the first arrival of the emigrants from Sierra Leone; and one only among the captured Africans since their discharge from the hospital at New Amsterdam.

Though no return is sent of the last arrivals from Rio de Janeiro by the Lady Rowena, I have ascertained that the Africans are in perfect health, and have had no deaths amongst those who landed in good health.

The returns of the Portuguese emigrants from Madeira present a melancholy contrast, and prove beyond a doubt that, before they can be acclimatised, an immense mortality and sickness must take place amongst them.

I have the honour to transmit copy of letter from Stipendiary Magistrate Allen from the Arabian coast, Essequibo, an extract from Mr. Ball, and copies of letters from Mr. Strutt to the Government Secretary and to the sheriff of Berbice on the state of these emigrants.

It appears, from the general returns of deaths in the three counties, 281 have died since the first arrival in February last out of 3,000 and upwards; and even this statement cannot include those who have been induced to give their labour to woodcutters in the river Demerara and its tributary creeks.

That many will be acclimatised there is no doubt; but I considered that it was neither advantageous to the colony to incur such great expense, nor according to the dictates of humanity to induce ignorant people to come to a climate which must be fatal to so large a proportion of their number.

I, therefore, proposed at once to the Court of Policy to stop the introduction of labourers from Madeira, as soon as it conveniently could be done, which was

No. 55.

No. 1.

No. 2.

No. 3.

No. 4.

Vide Minute
accompanying.

BRITISH GUIANA agreed to; and I have accordingly desired instructions to be sent to the agent at Madeira to discontinue sending any more after the 1st March next, being the earliest period, *via* England, the only certain communication with Madeira, which could ensure no derangement of contracts for shipment, or of any engagements made by the agent with the peasantry of Madeira.

Of the industry of these people we have had satisfactory proof; their eagerness to reap the advantage of their industry has made them imprudently laborious; unused to sickness, they would neither be persuaded to precaution, nor to take the remedies either of food or medicine necessary for recovery from sickness; then came despondency and death.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure 1, in No. 55.

Encl. 1, in No. 55. EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, at its ordinary Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Monday, 15th November, 1841.

(After Prayers.)

WITH reference to the statement made by the Hon. Mr. Croul, on the 29th ultimo, respecting a division of opinion between the members of the Immigration Committee as to the expediency of continuing to introduce labourers from Madeira, the Court now resolved, That it being calculated, from information derived from the agent at Madeira, that the aggregate number of labourers that have been, and will be, introduced into this colony up to the 31st December next will be about 4,500, this Court recommend that no bounty be paid on this description of immigrants brought in vessels leaving Madeira after 1st March next.

The Hon. Mr. Robinson, dissenting as respects the period, deeming it to be too short.

A true Extract.

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

Enclosure 2, in No. 55.

No. 1.

MONTHLY REPORT respecting Hill Coolies in British Guiana, this 1st November, 1841.

Plantation.	Number on Estate.			Absentees.	Number of Days Absent.	Deaths since last Report, Names and Dates.	Number of Sick on 31st ultimo, and General State of Health during last Month.	Particulars and Result of any Complaint preferred in the course of the past Month.
	Men.	Women.	Children.					
Highbury	92	7	10	None	None	None	17 sick on 31st ultimo; general state of health good.	No complaint.
Waterloo	39	..	..	Puckera	Eighteen	None	4; general state of their health good.	No complaint.
Belle Vue	56	2	..	*Jowhyessing on leave. Annandoe	Since 7th June, 1839. 1st Nov. 1841.	None	15; colds and influenza prevalent; otherwise good.	No complaint.
Wales	49	2	3	Puckerow and Narrain Bulda and Senkur Kudabur	1st August 23d Sept. 30th Sept., 1841	None	14 intermittent fever; general state of health otherwise good.	No complaint.
Vriedestein	22	..	..	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	2; general state of health good.	No complaint.
Anna Regina	41	3	7	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	3 sick; general state of health good.	No complaint.

* At the Church Missionary Society's station at Bartica Point receiving instruction.

No. 2.

MEMORANDUM to accompany the 1st November Returns of Captured Africans.

MONTHLY RETURN of Captured Africans in District I, this 1st November, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation Cotton Tree	3	5	3	3	5	1				None.	Very good Found in diet, clothing, and good lodging; receive wages in proportion to what labour is performed, at the present rate of 33 cents. for every seven hours and a half, which can be performed in four hours steady labour (lodging rent free.)
Plantation Woodley Park	2	..	10	2	..	4				None.	Very good Good lodging rent free, fed and clothed; paid wages according to the labour performed at the above rate, 33 cents. for every seven hours and a half labour. The stipendiary magistrate has visited and frequently seen these captured Africans, and declares he never saw more contented and happier beings.

A. VAN RYCK DE GROOT, Stipendiary Magistrate, 1841. I.

Office of Stipendiary Magistrate, District I,
County Berbice, 1st November, 1841.

MONTHLY RETURN of Captured Africans in District K, this 1st November, 1841.

Location.	Total Numbers.			At Work.			Mortality in last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Providence	5	10	17	5	8	11		None.	Exceedingly good . . .	Eight children are too young to labour; these people are comfortably housed and well cared; they are paid the same wages as the estate's labourers.	
Exerton	7	4	11	7	4	11		None.	Exceedingly good . . .	These people are well housed and cared, and are paid in the same ratio as the other labourers of the plantation.	
Friends	6	8	29	6	8	29		1	Exceedingly good . . .	These people are well housed and cared, and are paid in the same ratio as the estate's other labourers.	
Blairmount	6	5	10	6	4	9		None.	Exceedingly good . . .	These people are well housed and cared, and are paid in the same ratio as the estate's other labourers.	
Ballygeek	4	3	11	4	3	11		None.	Exceedingly good . . .	These people are well housed and cared, and are paid in the same ratio as the estate's other labourers.	
New Forest	1	1	8	1	1	7		None.	Exceedingly good . . .	These people are well housed and cared, and are paid in the same ratio as the estate's other labourers.	

A true report, witness my hand, this 1st day of November, 1841.

CHARLES HENRY STRUTT, Stipendiary Magistrate. District K.

A RETURN of the Mortality among the Captured Africans from Rio de Janeiro, since they were Located out, 28th June 1841, to the 1st November, 1841.

Located at Time of Decease.	Number.	Cause of Death.
Plantation Friends	1	Dysentery.

BRITISH GUIANA

No. 3.

MONTHLY RETURN of Sierra Leone Emigrants in British Guiana this 1st November, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
District A, (Upper) . . .	14	3	1	14	3	Remarkably good	The same as the native labourers.
District A, (Lower) . . .	7	2	2	7	..	..	..	..	..
District B	104	37	18	96	27	5	..	..	..
District C, (on plantations in Town Section.)	20	7	7	20	6	..	..	..	..
District C, (River Section) .	20	6	3	20	6	1	..	..	..
District D . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
District E	11	1	..	11	1	..	..	..	..
District F	1	2	..	1	2	..	..	..	..
District G	38	9	9	36	6	3	..	..	..
District H	34	13	4	24	10	..	..	..	..
District I . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
District K . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
District L . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
District M . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

A RETURN of the Mortality among the Sierra Leone Emigrants since their first arrival in the Colony, 23rd May, 1841, to the 1st November, 1841.

Located at Time of Decease.	Number.	Cause of Death.
Plantation Helena	1	Pleurisy.

No. 4.

MONTHLY RETURN of Portuguese Emigrants in British Guiana this 1st November, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
District A, (Upper) . .	14	10	25	2	2	6	1	3	3	Two-thirds of the number in very bad health; with the exception of four they had only been one month in the district.	Such as were able to work were receiving—the men half a dollar, the women one-third of a dollar per day. Lodgings good.
District A, (Lower) . . District B	52	51	46	34	29	..	2	4	7		
District C, (on plantations in Town Section.)	96	88	121	45	17	5	..	..	..	Good in general.	Wages according to work performed, from one-third to two-thirds of a dollar per day. Lodgings comfortable.
District C, (River Section.)	262	195	234	214	113	116	3	2	6	In about the same proportion as above, say two-thirds in bad health.	From one-third to half a dollar per day for an easy task; some earn a dollar per day. All comfortably lodged.
District D	115	95	170	85	46	62	..	2	2	Generally speaking they are improving in health.	From one-third to half a dollar day. Lodgings good.
District E	59	54	67	56	47	37	2	1	2	Much sickness has prevailed, but their health is now improving.	Wages the same as the other labourers. Lodgings good.
District F	119	93	121	83	57	44	5	5	6	One-third sickly; one-third convalescent; one-third healthy.	From 8 to 12 dollars per month; on one estate the majority earned 15 dollars. Lodgings improved, and now very good.
District G	32	25	57	17	10	12	1	2	2	About one-third have enjoyed pretty good health; the others have been very ill, but are improving.	Men half a dollar; women four-pence less; children from eight-pence to one shilling per day. Lodgings generally have been improved.
District H	119	98	128	57	39	33	7	4	11	Out of 361, 81 died in less than five months.	
District I	12	15	3	12	15	..	1	1	1	Sickly, but every prospect of improvement.	One-third of a dollar for seven hours and a half ordinary task, easily finished in four hours. Lodgings airy and comfortable.
District K	20	8	16	..	..	..	2	3	12	Out of 97, who went to one estate in September, 31 died to the 31st October.	No work owing to sickness. Lodgings large and commodious.
District L . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
District M . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	900	732	988	605	375	315	24	27	52		

Sir,

District H, November 6, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the returns required by your circular of the 23d ult. Although the mortality of the Portuguese has in some degree abated, yet the proportion of those enabled to work seems to have undergone no change.

The Portuguese on plantations Anna Regina and Better Success have so recently arrived, that sickness has scarcely had time to make its appearance amongst them. On the remaining estates it will appear that within a period of less than five months, out of 361 individuals, 81 have died; and of the survivors about one-third only were at work on the 2nd November, (the 1st November being All Saints' Day none were at work).

The managers of the eight estates concerned reluctantly admit that persons from Madeira cannot be profitably employed in the agricultural labour of this colony, an opinion with which, apart from humanity, I cannot but coincide.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. A. ALLEN, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Hon. H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

REMARKS respecting Portuguese Emigrants from the Stipendiary Magistrate in the district of Mahaica, county of Demerara.

"I would respectfully add my strong recommendation that no further immigration should be permitted from Madeira, the Portuguese being manifestly peculiarly unfit to contend with the climate; in truth, none but the negro race or those nearly allied to it (the Coolies) seem to me to be at all calculated for labourers in this colony; the Sierra Leone Africans, indeed, appear preferable to all the rest, as not being in the least liable to the fever by which others are assailed, owing no doubt to a similarity of climate between their own country and British Guiana, and I would even venture an opinion that the very localities which have proved most fatal to Europeans might be found the best suited to the African."

(Signed)

GEORGE BALL, Stipendiary Magistrate.

District A, Upper Division, November 1, 1841.

COUNTY OF BERBICE.

Sir,

District K, November 2, 1841.

I HAD the honour to receive your letter of the 23d ult., enclosing three forms of report to be made by me concerning the immigrants lately located in this district, and I hasten to transmit the required information.

By the Everton return his Excellency will learn, with deep regret, that the mortality among the Portuguese labourers upon that estate had during the last week of October been very great. I was on the plantation on Saturday, October 30, and finding upwards of 30 still sick, many indeed of that number dangerously so, I resolved to effect their removal to the Colonial Hospital, in New Amsterdam, as soon as possible, and waited in town upon Dr. Hollingsworth and Mr. McDonald the same afternoon, and recommended them to assent to their removal, and to address to me an official communication on the subject, in order that I might lay the same before the sheriff, and obtain his sanction to their admission.

I have the honour to add that Dr. Hollingsworth and Mr. Campbell, the attorney of the estate, came to my office on Monday, November 1 (yesterday), and requested I would take immediate steps for their removal, upon which I forthwith applied to the sheriff, who caused prompt preparations to be made for their reception in hospital, whither they were conveyed by water from Plantation Everton this morning. For his Excellency's information, I have the honour to transmit a copy of my letter to the sheriff.

I much fear that no doubt can be now entertained of the fact, that this country is unsuited to the habits and constitution of the Portuguese. By reference to the return of captured Africans, it will be seen that out of 97 newly come to Everton and the two neighbouring estates, namely Providence on one side, and Plantation Friends on the other, only one death has occurred—a boy named Simon Hood, aged 10 years, of dysentery.

The captured Africans came to these estates shortly before the Portuguese were located on Everton, they were about the same in number, and were alike new to the country. A convincing (although melancholy) proof is thus afforded as to which people are best adapted to the climate of British Guiana.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

C. H. STRUTT, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Hon. H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

COUNTY OF BERBICE.

Sir,

District K, November 1, 1841.

I AM sorry to state to your Honour that mortality and sickness continue to prevail to an alarming extent among the Portuguese located upon Plantation Everton in this district; out of 97 who went there in September, 31 have died up to last night, and many more are seriously ill.

Dr. Hollingsworth and Mr. Campbell, the attorney of the estate, have been with me this

S

BRITISH GUIANA morning, and expressed their anxious wish to have those who are now sick removed to the hospital in town, about 30 in number.

It appears that many of the sick have refused to take the medicine ordered for them, others have when they had taken it improperly exposed themselves in the sun, and some, indeed, have been so self-willed as to sleep at night in the grass; others, again, have paid no attention to their prescribed diet, but have eaten and drank whatever their inclination dictated; many have gorged themselves with fruit, ripe and unripe, and mothers have frequently refused to allow their children to take the wine and sago directed to be given to them by the medical gentlemen.

It is impossible to exercise that control over them on the estate which is so desirable and essential to the restoration of their health, and I have earnestly to hope that your Honour will admit them into hospital forthwith. By Mr. Campbell's letter, which I have the honour to enclose, you will see that the Board of Church and Poor's Fund will be borne harmless with regard to the expense, which their admission into hospital will necessarily occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

C. H. STRUTT, Stipendiary Magistrate.

His Honour C. R. Whinfield, Sheriff.

Sir,

Berbice, November 3rd, 1841.

I BEG to draw your attention to the very deplorable condition of the Portuguese immigrants yesterday brought from Plantation Everton and placed in our colonial hospital at New Amsterdam under my charge. Of these one died last evening, shortly after admission, and two during the night, and several others remain in such a deplorable state as to leave little hope of their surviving forty-eight hours. Of forty-one immigrants sent to hospital, thirty-seven required active treatment, generally on account of fever with excessive debility; in some instances, however, for dropsy consequent on fever, for dysentery, and for diarrhoea. Several that have had fever at Plantation Everton appear convalescent, but are yet in so debilitated a state as to induce me to apprehend relapse and the supervention of dropsy: the whole of them indeed are in so wretched a position that, apprehending great mortality amongst them, I have conceived it my duty to notify the same to your honour, and am,

Sir, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN B. BERESFORD,

Surgeon to the Asylum and Hospital.

His Honour C. R. Whinfield, Sheriff,

&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

CHARLES R. WHINFIELD, Sheriff.

(True copy of Copy)

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

A RETURN of the Mortality among the Portuguese Emigrants since their first arrival from Madeira, 3rd February, 1841, to the 1st November, 1841.

Location at time of Decease.	Number.	Cause of Death.
County of Demerara.		
Plantation Cane Grove. . .	7	Fever 5; atrophy 2.
„ Success . . .	1	Child 10 months old from ulcers.
„ Lusignan . . .	6	Fever.
„ Annandale . . .	12	Fever 11; 1, an idiot from birth, died from an affection of the brain, aged 7.
„ La Penitence . . .	6	Fever.
„ Ruimveld . . .	7	Fever 2; liver 2; dysentery 2; worms 1.
„ Houston . . .	13	Fever 3; worms 4; marasmus 2; accidentally drowned 1; liver 1; dysentery 1; apoplexy 1.
„ Best . . .	11	The doctor remarks—"The Portuguese when brought to this estate were most of them, but chiefly the children, in a sickly cachectic state with dropsy of the extremities;" 1 of the number was 85 years of age, and 3 above 50.
„ Uitvlugt . . .	6	Fever 1; miscarriage 1; consumption 1; worms 1; liver 1.
„ Nouvelle Flandre . .	3	Fever 2; dropsy 1.
„ Vreed en Hoop . . .	2	Fever 1; fever and mortification of the cheek 1 infant.
„ Pondroyen . . .	2	Fever.
„ Malgré tout . . .	3	Fever 2; debility 1.
„ Schoonord . . .	13	Fever 7; debility 5; coup de soleil 1.
„ Vive la Force . . .	3	Fever.
County of Essequibo.		
Plantation Taymouth Manor .	8	Fever 2; childbirth 1; debility 3; flux 1; eruption 1.
„ Affiance . . .	11	Fever 8; childbirth 1; debility 2.
„ Mainstay . . .	5	Fever 1; Fits 1; debility 3.

A Return of the Mortality among the Portuguese Emigrants—continued.

BRITISH GUIANA

Location at time of Decease.	Number.	Cause of Death.
„ Sparta	2	Fever 1; worms 1.
„ Richmond . . .	9	Fever 2; fall 1; accident 1; dysentery 1; dropsy 1; want of care by parents 3 infants.
„ La Belle Alliance .	6	Fever 3; general decay 1 (57 years); dysentery 1; debility 1.
„ Lima	19	Fever 13; lumbago 1; dropsy 3; dysentery 1; ulceration 1.
„ Windsor Castle .	21	Fever 20; dysentery 1.
„ Onderneeming.. .	5	Water on the brain 1; thrash 1; marasmus 2; typhus fever 1.
„ Aurora	1	Worms and fever.
„ Good Intent . . .	12	Apoplexy 1; epidemic fever 11.
„ Caledonia	4	Dysentery 1; worms 1; fever 2.
„ Meerzorg	11	In childbed 4; fits 1; fever 6.
„ Friendship	9	Miscarriage 3; worms 2; fever 4.
„ Sarah	6	Dysentery 1; fever 5.
„ Belle Plaine . . .	3	Fever.
„ New Bendorf . . .	4	In childbed 1; rupture of the lungs 1; fever 2.
„ Zealandia	1	Fever.
„ Success	10	Fever.
„ Elizabeth Ann . .	4	Fever 3; neglect of mother 1 infant.
„ Endeavour	5	Fever 3; fits 1; in childbed 1.
County of Berbice.		
Plantation Everton . . .	31	Fever and diarrhoea.

(No. 53.)

No. 56.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Governor LIGHT.

Sir,

Downing-street, February 17, 1842.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 22nd November, No. 157, transmitting the returns of the state of the Coolies, the captured Africans, the emigrants from Sierra Leone, and of the Portuguese emigrants from Madeira.

(No. 56.)

I have perused with much concern your account, and also the statements which accompany your Despatch, relative to the Portuguese emigrants from Madeira.

It is clear that this description of labourers is quite unsuited to the climate of British Guiana, and I approve therefore of the steps which you have taken for preventing any more being sent to the colony from Madeira at the public expense.

With respect to the African immigrants, the accounts are of a most satisfactory nature, and there appears every reason to expect that they will become a valuable acquisition to the colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

STANLEY.

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

(No. 158.)

No. 57.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

Government House, Demerara, November 23, 1841.

A MEETING of proprietors and others connected with estates in this province took place on the 2nd inst., to consider the agricultural position and interests of the colony, in order to adopt such measures as might seem expedient in a crisis which, it is said, affects the general prosperity of the proprietary body.

No. 57.

It was resolved to appoint a committee, and to request Sir Michael MacTurk to preside.

This gentleman (of whose support I have made frequent mention) is one of the most experienced planters in the colony. He has no cause in his own person to dread reverse or the future, his estates working well and profitably.

On the appeal made to him that his personal influence would have great effect, he cheerfully assented to the wishes of the conveners of the meeting, and consented to preside at their committee.

The great object of the meeting has been to show that the expenses of production are so great that, at present prices of produce, ruin must follow.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a statement made to me by a gentleman who has been always moderate in his opinions and well disposed to

BRITISH GUIANA the Government, whose name he has no wish should be known; I therefore withhold it, as well as the names of the estates marked 1, 2, 3, 4, of which he has charge as attorney or proprietor.

This statement is handed to me as a proof of the ruinous expenses of a sugar estate in the present times; and certainly, if all the estates are in the same predicament, the position of a planter is very critical.

It is, I believe, the intention of Sir Michael MacTurk to obtain as many similar statements as can be collected, to enable the committee to judge of the causes of such an immense outlay with so little profit.

It is very certain that much depends on the tact, judgment, and skill of the planter in the management of an estate, and on these must rest its well and profitable working under free labour. No legislative enactment can be of any service to the proprietors, except perhaps the introduction of an ordinance for the relative rights of landlord and tenants, of which I have given your Lordship notice in my Despatch, No. 154, date 20th inst.

The present difficulties, if they exist, can only be overcome by rendering manual labour less necessary to the planter, which mechanical substitutes alone can achieve.

To these the colony has lately turned its attention, and by these it is to be hoped the expenses now assumed as so ruinous will be lightened.

The drainage of the country has been hitherto maintained by manual labour. This, it is confidently expected, will be set aside by the use of a canal and trench excavator, worked by steam. A steam plough also has been tried, which a committee of planters has considered likely to be a valuable and cheap mode of cultivating the soil.

It is in vain that the planters look to immigration as the "panacea" for their difficulties. Wages would not be diminished, nor the other expenses of an estate be decreased, by the introduction of any possible number of labourers, unless at the same time such modes of management were adopted as would secure such proportionate good cultivation as shall obtain full products from the soil.

I have expressed to Sir Michael MacTurk and to the gentleman whose statements I have the honour to enclose, that I shall be most happy to give my best attention to any communications made to me, but that my opinion is that the expenses of agriculture can only be reduced to any considerable extent by abridging manual labour.

The canal excavator alone would, it is said, save the labour of ten thousand workmen; and that the steam plough would reduce labour one third.

I have no opinion to give on the correctness of the calculations I have now the honour to forward, though with full faith in the person who laid them before me; but I do know that there are estates conducted in a less expensive manner where full labour is continuous, and freely and cheerfully given; and I can assert, that much labour has been not only misapplied, but lost, by want of firmness, tact, and management.

Enclosure in No. 57.

Statements of actual Expenses and Returns, from 1st January to 31st October, 1841, of Four Estates in the County of Essequibo, Colony of British Guiana.										Statement of probable Expenses and Returns, from 1st November to 31st December, 1841.					Totals, from 1st January to 31st December, 1841.					
	Labour, to 31st October.	Salaries for the Year.	Taxes for the Year.	Ordinary Ex- penses, to 31st October.	Total Ex- penses.	Molasses, to 31st October.	Rum, to 31st October.	Sugar, to 31st October.	Total Revenue.	Total Expenses, from 1st November to 31st December.	Molasses.	Rum.	Sugar.	Total Revenue.	Total Ex- penses.	Total Revenue.	Excess of Revenue over Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Revenue.	Total Hogs- heads of Sugar made and to be made.	Rate per Hogshead.
	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dols. cts.
*Estate, No. 1.	14,527	3,966	1,749	8,415	28,657	4,830	1,030	25,000	30,860	{Labour 2,906 Expenses 1,683}	1,020	257	7,000	8,277	33,246	39,137	5,891	..	320	81 59½
,, No. 2.	7,388	3,073	920	4,671	16,052	1,667	438	8,100	10,205	2,278	600	488	3,000	4,088	18,330	14,293	..	4,037	111	136 37
,, No. 3.	5,200	2,600	640	4,500	12,940	973	1,104	6,800	8,877	1,700	500	210	4,000	4,710	14,640	13,617	..	1,023	108	109 48½
Totals. .	27,115	9,639	3,309	17,586	57,649	7,470	2,572	39,900	49,942	8,567	2,120	985	14,000	17,105	66,216	67,047	5,891	5,060	539	..

Thus giving the average cost of production, for every hogshead of sugar made on the four estates, at 98 dollars and 46 cents per hogshead; independent of which 12,000 dollars have been sunk by the proprietors, during the year, in the erection of buildings, besides sinking interest upon the whole invested capital, which interest cannot be calculated at less than £2,695 sterling per annum. Three out of the four of those properties have always been amongst the most productive in the district within which they are situate, and the fourth has given about a fair average return. To show the ruinous change which has come over us, I may mention that, for several years previous to 1838, the aggregate crops of those four estates were 1,100 or 1,200 hogsheads of sugar per annum, produced at a cost of about 52 dollars per hogshead.

* N.B.—The estates, Nos. 1 and 2, are worked together, under one management.

BRITISH GUIANA (No. 160.)

No. 58.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 30th November, 1841.

No. 58.

IN my Despatch, No. 158, dated 23rd instant, I had the honour of drawing your Lordship's attention to a statement of expenses attendant on cultivation of the staple commodities, and alluding to a meeting and appointment of committee of planters, to be presided over by Sir Michael M^tTurk, to take into consideration the state of agriculture in this province.

Whatever may be the difficulties of the planters, and though they must be always regretted by Her Majesty's Government, as well as by the authorities of the colonies in which those difficulties occur, yet it is satisfactory to be able to record, that a large and powerful addition is daily made to a new race of active, industrious, and independent freeholders, who must in the course of a very short time assume that middle position in society which till slavery was abolished could not exist in the West Indies.

I have the honour to report that another estate, Plantation Friendship, has been purchased by certain labourers on the east coast, county Demerara, belonging to, or rather working on, Plantations Enterprize, Bladen Hall, Annandale, Lusignan, Enmore, for the sum of 80,000 dollars, or 16,000*l.* sterling, of which 35,000 dollars were paid down, 5,000 more to be paid in one month, the rest to be on mortgage until the whole number of shareholders should have paid their quota.

One hundred, or 110 out of the 200, have already paid their amount of contribution, each 400 dollars, and one man, a headman of one of the estates, who appears, from keeping his horse and gig, to have been richer than any of the others, has contributed 2,000 dollars.

Plantation Friendship was originally a cotton and plantain estate, was purchased not many years ago for 5,000*l.* or 6,000*l.* sterling; three years ago it was sold for 10,000*l.*; it now has been sold for 16,000*l.* sterling to emancipated slaves.

There can be little doubt that the desire for independence will be succeeded by the desire for wealth, and the same spirit which has limited hitherto the labourers to the purchase of property whose productions are for local wants alone, will lead them to the purchase of estates, on which the staple commodities for export are grown and cultivated.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

(No. 166.)

No. 59.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 4th December, 1841.

No. 59.

IN my Despatch, No. 158, of 23rd ultimo, there was enclosed a statement of the expenses of four estates which had been presented to me by a very respectable colonist; and allusion was made to the existence of a committee of planters who had been appointed to consider the agricultural condition of the colony.

Sir Michael M^tTurk, who had been elected chairman of the committee, was subsequently appointed to preside at a public meeting, convened for the purpose of receiving the report of the committee.

This report, adopted by the meeting, was submitted to me, and I have the honour of enclosing a printed copy thereof, together with the reply which by my directions was given to the chairman by Mr. Young, the Government Secretary, and of which I trust your Lordship will approve.

However much it is to be regretted that in so large a number of estates as that referred to in the report there has been this year an average excess of expence over profits, it appears to me that an easier remedy might have been devised for the evil had the committee selected some of the estates which had been economically conducted, and have exhibited them in detailed contrasts, with others which had sustained a loss.

Your Lordship will observe that the report of the meeting is confined to about one-third of the sugar estates in Demerara and Essequibo, nor has it any reference to a single estate in Berbice.

This report attributes much of the diminished production of estates to imperfect

and irregular labour, and this has in a great degree been owing to a mistrust of the attorneys, managers, and planters in the industry of the labourers. BRITISH GUIANA.

In this mistrust I have never participated; and as the extract annexed to the Government Secretary's letter from my address to the Combined Court in February, 1839, shows, my recommendations have been calculated to inspire confidence in the planter, in order that he should deal with an idle labourer in British Guiana as a farmer would with his servants in Europe.

Instead, however, of discouraging slovenly work, it was tolerated, from the fear of losing labourers, and work ill done continued to be highly paid.

In all these matters, however, it is, and must be ever utterly impossible for government in any direct manner to interpose; and greater inequalities of productions on different estates are but the natural, and will continue to be the permanent consequences, of the employers being deprived of that direct personal control over labour which slavery conferred, and of which higher degrees of tact and management, patience and liberality, can alone enable the employer to repossess himself.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure in No. 59.

MEETING of Proprietors and Representatives of Estates and other Property.

Encl. in No. 59.

PURSUANT to the notice which appeared in the public papers, a meeting of proprietors and representatives of estates took place yesterday in town to devise measures for remedying as far as possible the present distress of the agricultural interest of the colony. The attendance was by no means so great as might have been expected from the importance of the question to be discussed; and, although many gentlemen of respectability and influence were present, some of these retired at an early hour, while others took no part whatever in the proceedings.

On the motion of Mr. Colin Simson, Sir Michael M'Turk was called to the chair, and addressed the meeting as follows:—

"Gentlemen,—I think it necessary, before entering on the business of the day for which you are now assembled, to notice a paragraph which appeared in one of the newspapers regarding the meeting of the 6th ultimo. It was represented that the parties there assembled were afraid that their sentiments or opinions should be made known. I have merely to give it contradiction, for the editor of that paper knows that I never presided at any meeting where my opinions were such that I did not wish them to be heard. I merely mention my opinion, and the public may know who these gentlemen were that attended the meeting of the 6th ultimo:—Messrs. Rose, Macrae, Colin Simson, Jones, Holmes, Davison, Alexander Glen, James Glen, Naghten, Burnett, Grant, Gallaway, J. A. Holmes, Porter, Stuart, Sandbach, Arrindell, Robertson, Reeves, Liebau, Dr. Martin, Fleming, Bean, Carberry, Seward, and myself.

"The object of the meeting was to ascertain and discuss whether the rate of production throughout the colony was ruinous, and if it appeared to those gentlemen to be so, to call a public meeting. That sets you right with respect to the newspaper reports, and on the contrary there was nothing improper.

"The object for which a Committee was appointed on the 6th ultimo has, as far as practicable, been effected, which was in substance, to elicit information on the actual cost of production of the staples of the colony, on the average of the last 10 months; and to ascertain the proportion of that cost, and the value of the article produced, with the view of devising measures to reduce the cost of production, if found to be excessive, to a fair and equitable rate.

"The Committee have accordingly procured that information which they now submit to the meeting in the form of a Report; and before being read, I beg leave to observe, that in order to obtain that information in as consistent, uniform, and explanatory a shape as possible, the Committee prepared a schedule or tabular form, to be observed by parties making returns, and it has been filled in by the proprietors or representatives of no less than 62 estates, situate in every district of the counties of Demerara and Essequibo. From these Returns it is manifest that the cost of production is not only excessive, but far beyond the value of the article produced, without at all taking into consideration the interest on invested capital. An abstract of these Returns forms part of the Report; from which it will be seen that the cost of production is 90 dollars for every hogshead of sugar, on an average of 10,343 hogsheads, being several pounds sterling above the average price at which Demerara sugar has been and is selling in the home market. Having, as the Committee presumes, satisfactorily ascertained the average rate of production throughout the two counties to be not only excessive but ruinous to the producer, it next became the business of your Committee to recommend a plan of reduction, and they have done so in the terms of the Report. One of those reductions is, that of the present rate of wages paid to the labourers. This the Committee approached with a just sense of the delicacy of the subject, and the knowledge of the great difficulty they had to contend with, however necessary and imperative the measure itself was. I believe it will not be disputed that the cost of production is the grand regulating principle of price; this principle the Committee took as the basis of their deliberations, and in proposing this measure of reduction,

BRITISH GUIANA they trust it will be found that they neither have, on the one hand, overlooked the just rights of the labourer, nor on the other, pleaded a monopoly for the proprietor, but endeavoured to equalize wages and profits.

"I believe the interests of the employer and employed—the proprietor and labourer—are identically the same; and if any unfair advantage is taken by the one over the other, it will in the end be productive of injury to both. I have not only my own observations to guide me in this particular, but I have the testimony of the celebrated Edmund Burke; he says, in his *Thoughts on Scarcity*, 'There is an implied contract much stronger than any instrument or article of agreement between the labourer, in any occupation, and his employer; that the labour, as far as that labour is concerned, shall be sufficient to pay the employer a profit on his capital and a compensation for his risk; in a word, that the labourer shall produce advantage equal to the payment; whatever is above that is direct tax. In the case of the farmer and the labourer, their interest is always the same; it is the interest of the farmer that his work should be done with effect and celerity, and that cannot be unless the labourer is well fed, and otherwise found in such necessities of animal life, according to his habitude, as may keep the body in full force, and the mind gay and cheerful; for all the instruments of his trade, the labour of man is that on which he has most to rely for the repayment of his capital. On the other hand, if the farmer ceases to profit of the labour, and that his capital is not continually manured and fructified, it is impossible that he should continue that abundant nutriment, clothing, and lodging proper for the protection of the instruments he employs. It is, therefore, the first and fundamental interest of the labourer that the farmer should have a full income of profit on the product of his labour.'

"I think the Report will show that, at present, there is no equality between the rate of wages and the cost of production, and if I am permitted the liberty, I will show, that without equality, or something like it, the cultivation of the soil cannot be carried on.

"Smith, in his *Wealth of Nations*, is sufficient authority for this assertion, and subsequent writers say, 'nothing can be more convincing and satisfactory than his reasons on this subject. The equality of wages and profits has, since the publication of his work, being always assumed as admitted and incontestible.' I may also quote from equally good authority in regard to the cost of production, regulating the principle of price, namely, 'that in certain branches of industry, such, for example, as agriculture, which are liable to be affected by variation of seasons, and from which capital cannot be readily withdrawn, there is a somewhat longer interval than others before the market price of produce and the cost of production can be equalized. But that such equalization will be brought about in the end is certain. No farmer, and no producer whatever, will continue to bring corn or other products to market unless they sell for such a price as will pay the expense of their production, including therein the common and average rate of profit on the capital employed.'

"Smith and the Marquis Garnier, in treating on the variations of demand and supply, state 'that the equality of wages and profits once established, it is easy to see that variations in the demand and supply of commodities can exert no lasting influence over price. The cost of production, the necessary or natural price is the ultimate regulator of the value of any commodity not subject to a monopoly, and which may be indefinitely increased in quantity by the application of fresh capital and labour to its production. That the market price of such commodities and the cost do not always coincide is certain; but they cannot, for any considerable period be far separated, and have a constant tendency to equality. It is plain no man will continue to produce commodities, if they sell for less than the cost of production—that is, for less than will repay the outlay upon them, including the ordinary rate of profit on the capital employed. A demand to be effectual must be such as will cover the expense of production; if it be insufficient to do this, it cannot make commodities be produced and brought to market.' These facts the Committee trust will bear them out in proposing for your consideration this item of reduction.

"The rest of the proposed reductions are more easily managed, being within self-control; but unless followed up with unremitting attention, the reduction of wages will go but a very little way in bringing the cost of production within the range of affording the proprietor a fair and equitable profit; for, from what may be seen from the abstract attached to the Report, the sums of money paid for wages are, beyond all belief, large, compared with the quantity of produce made; and I have no hesitation in saying that, had the wages paid, high as they are, been judiciously appropriated, and the quantity of work got well done, a much larger proportion of produce would have been made, thereby lessening the expense of production by so much; at the same time I am free to admit that it would not be to the extent of equalising the rate of wages and profits. It is therefore, gentlemen, with the view of gaining this desirable end, namely, equalising the rate of wages and profits, that I venture, individually, to crave your serious attention to two things; and the first and most essential is, to the practice of allowing the labourers to occupy dwellings on estates without performing ordinary and steady work, whereby several thousand of them are enabled to retire from field work, to the disadvantage of the property and to the injury of the labourers themselves. This practice cannot be too much condemned, for it begets want, vice, and wretchedness. In what country do you see a day or two days' work in the fields sufficient to support an able labourer, and probably with a wife and family? Such a thing is unknown elsewhere, and to those unacquainted with the colony may appear an enigma; but it is easily solved, when it is known that this same labourer has a house, free of rent, a medical gentleman to attend him and his family when sick, gratis and ground to grow his provisions in when well, without cost. It, then, becomes rather a wonder that such a person should work any at all. It may be said, and I know that it is said, that if the labourers are sent away from an estate for not working they will go to another estate and be employed there. This of course they will do, as they have a right to do; but if the

estate they go to requires from them daily labour, they will very soon return to their old homes and acquaintances, and work there, rather than among strangers. Was this course generally pursued, you would accomplish more, and confer a greater benefit on the country, than the value of all the wages put together; at the same time you would be rendering essential service to the present generation of labourers, especially the junior portion of it, by forming their habits to suit the situation of life in which it has pleased Providence to place them. The second, and next thing is, that the work performed should not only be the fair and regulated quantum, but the quality should be particularly attended to. This would tend more to increase the crops on the same quantity of land than many are disposed to believe.

"I am decidedly of opinion, if those two simple and easily accomplished propositions were strictly adhered to, that the colony would be put in a comparative state of prosperity, and the mutual interests of the employer and employed secured. Besides, it would have the effect of developing the value of property, now nominal, equalising the wages and profits, and proving that the cost of production is the grand regulating principle of price."

Mr. Sandbach then read the Report:—

"The Committee, appointed at a meeting of proprietors and representatives of property, held on the 6th of November, has procured Returns, in a tabular form, of the current expenses and quantity of sugar made upon sixty estates from the 1st of January to 31st October, and estimates of the probable expenses and probable quantity of sugar to be made upon the same estates during the months of November and December.

"By these Returns, an abstract from which is now laid before this meeting, it appears that the average cost of producing a hogshead of sugar upon sixty estates, exclusive of interest on capital, and extraordinary expenses, and after deducting the value of all other produce than sugar, is 98 dollars 81 cents; and as among the estates from which the Committee has procured returns are some from every district in the counties of Demerara and Essequibo, and both large and small have been taken indiscriminately, it may fairly be assumed that 98 dollars 81 cents is the average cost of production of a hogshead of sugar throughout the two above-named counties.

"By the latest accounts, the average price of Demerara sugar in England cannot be estimated at more than 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ per hogshead, or, at 4s. 2d. to the dollar, 86 dollars 40 cents, nor is there any reasonable prospect of the average price ranging much higher in future.

"From these data it is evident that the cultivation of sugar, the principal production of British Guiana, cannot be continued on the present system, in consequence of the excessive cost of production.

"The Committee, having investigated the causes of this excessive cost, conceives that they are principally the following, viz.:—

"1st. The irregularity with which the labourers perform their work; the slovenly and imperfect manner in which the work is performed; and the belief of the labourer that he is under no obligation to finish work that he has undertaken and commenced, but that he is at liberty, even in the manufacturing department, to quit his work at any moment, however detrimental his so doing may prove.

"2nd. The custom of paying for less than a full task, and the circumstance of many labourers doing only a few days plantation work during a month, and engaging themselves the greater portion of their time in other occupations.

"3rd. The practice of giving gratuities of provisions, or of selling them to the labourers below the cost or market price.

"4th. The allowing labourers to occupy apartments on estates when they are not employed in the service of those estates.

"5th. The absence of any necessity for the labourer to make provision against a time of sickness or accident, from the assurance he has of being, either himself or his family, nursed, maintained, and attended to, under such circumstances, at the expense of the estate on which he resides.

"6th. The disproportion between the rate of wages paid and the quantity and quality of work performed.

"The Committee now proposes for the consideration of this meeting the following remedies for the evils that have been enumerated, viz.:—

"1st. That the superintendent in charge of an estate should insist on every labourer performing daily the full task agreed upon, and on its being performed in a proper and efficient manner; and that the labourer should be made fully to understand that he is accountable for any injury or loss that may be sustained, in consequence of his capriciously and suddenly quitting any work at which he may be engaged in the manufacturing department. That the labourers should commence work at stated hours.

"2nd. That no partial performance of an agreed daily task should be paid for, except in cases of sickness or other valid cause.

"3rd. That the labourers who do not regularly perform their agreed task, but engage themselves in occupations unconnected with their employer's service, be at once dismissed from the estate they reside upon.

"4th. That no gratuities of any kind should be given, nor should anything approaching to the truck system between employer and labourer be countenanced.

"5th. That the labourers should be taught to depend wholly on their own resources, as the

BRITISH GUIANA

up his family, and to make some provision for his old age. The highest rates which the Committee thinks can be afforded for the best quality of labour is 32 cents for a full day's field labour, calculated upon the apprenticeship tariff of seven and a half hours; and 48 cents for a day's labour in the buildings; equalization of the wages for the different kinds of field work.

"The Committee further recommends that the practice of paying an extra rate of wages for extra work be discontinued; that the labourers should work at the buildings in turns, because the field labourer who may finish his work early in the day can earn much more than the one who is confined the whole day at the buildings; that for every day on which any labourer absents himself from work, or does not perform his agreed task, he be required to pay two bitts for the occupancy of his lodging; that measures should be taken to introduce into the country a sufficient supply of copper currency, to obviate the inconvenience at present existing from the want of it.

"The Committee deprecates the use of fire in facilitating the cutting of canes, and recommends that, in cases where it may be resorted to, the price of cutting the canes and relieving should be reduced to 25 per cent. below the rates current on estates where fire is not used, in order to make it the interest of the labourer to avoid its use.

"The Committee cannot conclude this Report without repeating its conviction, that much of the present defalcation in crops is attributable to the irregularity with which the labourers turn out to work, and the imperfect manner in which the work is performed; both of which evils have arisen from an apprehension, on the part of those in charge of estates, that the labourers would leave them if required strictly to do their duty. The remedy for these evils lies in the hands of every manager of an estate, and the Committee earnestly recommends that the proprietors and representatives should require from the managers the most rigorous attention to the quality of the work performed in the field, the neglect of which, of late years, cannot be denied, and should insist upon every labourer working regularly and daily. The Committee would observe, without, however, venturing to offer any recommendation on a subject which it regards as matter of private arrangement, that the general rates of salaries throughout the country are out of all proportion to the diminished returns of estates."

Additional recommendation appended to this Report, in accordance with the resolution moved by Mr. Laud at the meeting held this day of December, 1841:—

"The Committee is of opinion, that the great encouragement given to task-gangs since the 1st August, 1838, and the high rates of wages paid to them, have been very injurious to the general prosperity of the country, by rendering the labourers unsettled in their habits and dissatisfied with regular employment. It is, therefore, recommended that the services of task gangs should be dispensed with as much as possible, and that, where they are employed, they should only be paid the same rates of wages as the regular labourers on the estates."

(Signed) MICHAEL M'TURK, Chairman.

Sir Michael M'Turk.—Those had been the labours of the Committee.*

* The Committee consisted of the following gentlemen, Sir Michael M'Turk, Messrs. Rose, Simson, Macrae, Jones, Carbery, Sandbach, and Glen.

STATEMENT of the actual Expenses and Returns,

From 1st January to 31st October, 1841.

Labour.	Salaries	Taxes, 1840.	Expenses.	Total.	Molasses.	Rum.	Other Revenue.	Total.	Difference between Revenue and Expense.	Crop.	Cost per Hogshead.
Dols. cts.	Dols. cts.	Dols. cts.	Dols. cts.	Dols. cts.	Dols. cts.	Dols. cts.	Dols. cts.	Dols. cts.	Dols. cts.	Dols.	Dols. cts.
535,486 41	162,515 5	64,387 76	329,086 41	1,091,455 63	89,842 78	117,873 37	9,580 16	217,296 31	874,159 32	6,972	125 38

STATEMENT of probable Expenses and Returns,

From 1st November to 31st December, 1841.

From 1st January to 31st December, 1841.

Expenses.	Molasses.	Rum.	Other Revenue.	Total.	Crop.	Total Expense.	Total Revenue.	Difference between Expense and Revenue.	Total Sugar Crop.	Rate per Hogshead.
Dols. cts.	Dols. cts.	Dols. cts.	Dols.	Dols. cts.	Dols.	Dols. cts.	Dols. cts.	Dols. cts.	Dols.	Dols. cts.
204,222 98	26,887 63	65,987 8	2,002	94,876 71	2,981	1,295,678 61	312,171 2	983,507 59	9,953	98 81

N.B.—Independently of the above ordinary expenses, there has been expended this year, in building cottages or other extraordinaries, the sum of 174,324 dollars 62 cents upon the above sixty estates.

Sir,

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, December 2, 1841.

BRITISH GUIANA

I DID not fail immediately to lay before the Governor the documents which to-day you did me the honour of handing to me for that purpose, in pursuance of a resolution of a public meeting held yesterday of planters and others interested in property in British Guiana.

His Excellency desires me to assure the meeting, through you as their chairman, that those papers, exhibiting the average results of the cultivation of nearly one-third of the sugar estates in two counties of the colony, have been perused with great attention and much interest.

It is evident that no object can possibly be of more consequence to the proprietors of sugar estates than to devise means whereby their crops may be produced for exportation of a good quality and at an expense which will leave to them, in reference to the prices of the home market, a fair remunerating profit.

To increase production and to reduce its cost are legitimate and customary objects of study to agriculturists all over the world; but it very reasonably seems in a more especial manner, in these days, to be of the most pressing importance to West India sugar planters, that their staple should in future as constantly rival in lowness of price, as it has hitherto invariably excelled in quality, the like produce raised in other parts of the world.

Differences of opinion, of which the meeting here referred to was not without instances, must necessarily prevail as to the mode of attaining this most desirable object; nor indeed without such differences, and without the actual experiment consequent thereon, of various systems of cultivation and various changes in the economy of plantations, is it probable that the object would have a fair chance of being attained at all.

Under this view of the question his Excellency is of opinion that combinations of planters will end in disappointment whenever formed for any other purpose than that of communicating information respecting agriculture; stimulating industry by premiums; liberally rewarding the invention or new application of machinery in substitution of manual labour; and other similar objects to which exclusively agricultural societies in the mother country usually direct their attention and appropriate their funds.

One of the principal causes assigned by the meeting for the diminished production which has occasioned an average excess of expense over profit on the estates to which their resolutions refer, is the insufficient quantity, the defective quality, the irregularity of the work performed.

This evil appears to have originated in the doubts of managers and others in charge of estates, that the labourers would remain on the property if much exactness was required from them in these particulars. Happily for the country, and creditably to the steady habits and to the strength of the local attachments of the labourers, time has dissipated this apprehension, and that it never was very formidable in the Governor's opinion may be seen on reference to various of his Excellency's addresses to the legislature, and more especially to that of which an extract is annexed.

His Excellency has directed that instructions be given to the stipendiary magistrates, in cases where the payment of wages shall be disputed on the score of work imperfectly performed, to impress on the labourer that the natural and just purport of an agreement to perform specific work is, that the work be performed in an efficient and workmanlike manner, and that it will always be his duty either personally to examine or to take impartial evidence as to this very essential point. In order, however, to obviate the dissatisfaction which would most probably arise if an objection of this nature should be taken after any long interval of time, it would be desirable that the claims for wages should be adjusted at least once a-week, whatever may be the period fixed for their payment.

Upon the question of the tenancy of cottages his Excellency observes with great regret, that several of the gentlemen at the meeting are apparently inclined to depart from the wise principle which is so clearly laid down in the memorial, suggesting an ordinance for the more speedy recovery of rent, &c., which they subscribed and addressed to the Governor a few weeks past, viz., that the questions of rent and labour should be kept wholly distinct and separate.

It would also have been more satisfactory to the Governor if the meeting had disposed of the question of the wages of labour in the same terms as they treated the expediency of reducing the general rates of salaries, for it is evident that both are equally matters of private arrangement.

Wages can never be made the subject of a public general agreement with the slightest prospect of permanent or uniform adoption, or with any other result than that the attempt may possibly prove worse than useless.

His Excellency will not fail to draw the attention of the legislature to the recommendation of the meeting that a supply of copper currency be introduced into the colony.

In conclusion his Excellency desires me to assure you and the gentlemen who composed the meeting, that although strongly impressed with the conviction that whatever remedies are applicable to the state of things described in their report are chiefly in their own power, it will nevertheless ever be his anxious wish to afford them in their difficulties any assistance which it may be competent to the executive or the legislature to render, and that it will give him great satisfaction to witness the success of their efforts to improve the internal economy of their plantations.

Sir Michael M'Turk,

&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

(Signed)

I have, &c.,

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, combined with the Financial Representatives of the Inhabitants of the said Colony, at its Annual Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara.

Tuesday, 19th February, 1839.

I am disposed to believe the proprietors have still the power, under a legitimate understanding, to which the planters should rigidly adhere, of checking the idleness of which there is complaint. It has been successfully adopted on one estate, if general it would assuredly remedy the evil, provided every justice was afforded to the industrious. I speak in the interest of the whole labouring population. An idle labourer ought not to be kept on an estate; he ought not to be received on any; there ought to be an unanimous resolve to abstain from the employment of any man who, under no bodily infirmity, does not perform the usual labour of the estate to the extent customary previous to the 1st of August. I defy the most enthusiastic, false or true philanthropist, to say that a day's labour which may be completed in five or six hours, or even in less time, is an oppressive demand on the labourer, paid as he is, and favoured as he is almost universally with other privileges, which place him far above the condition of the labourer in Europe. The freedom which leads to the mere supply of the common calls of hunger will never raise the descendant of Africa in the scale of human beings, which the friends of freedom so much desire.

(True Extract.)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

(No. 50.)

No. 60.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Governor LIGHT.

Sir,

Downing-street, 7th February, 1842.

No. 60.

I HAVE received your Despatches, Nos. 158, 160, and 166, of the 23rd and 30th November, and 4th December last, on the subject of the agricultural prospects of the colony under your government, and forwarding the printed copy of a report adopted at a meeting of the proprietors and representatives of estates in the colony, together with a copy of the reply which was given by your directions to the chairman of the meeting, and of which I have to signify to you my approval. It is, however, with great regret, that I receive accounts tending to show the diminished and diminishing exports of the staple article of the colony, and the consequent distress in which many of the planters must be involved; a regret which is the greater, because I fear that the interposition of Government can do little to remedy the evil.

When the demand for labour is so urgent, and the consequent facilities for obtaining money so great, it is natural to expect that any conceivable amount of immigration can have but a very partial effect in reducing the rate of wages. The successive immigrants can hardly do more than replace those whom the acquisition of property and its investment in freehold lands withdraws in a great measure from the market of labour to be employed in the cultivation of sugar. I concur in your opinion that more effectual remedies are to be looked to in the adoption of a less expensive system of management, and in the introduction to as great an extent as practicable of substitutes for manual labour. I cannot think that it is desirable to attempt to enforce labour by penalties in the shape of rent to be exacted only in the event of its non-performance; and I think universal experience has shown that those properties have prospered most where the two questions of rent and labour have been kept wholly distinct. Experience has shown, what reason would anticipate, that the industry of the negro, like that of all mankind, is drawn out just in proportion to the amount of interest which he has in the produce of his labour; and although I have great hesitation in offering any suggestion on such subjects, I cannot but add that it appears to me probable that no inconsiderable success might attend the introduction into Demerara of the metairie system, which it appears has been tried with good results in St. Lucia, and has recently, though very partially, been attempted in Trinidad. The labourer is thus practically raised to the condition of a small farmer, paying rent in the shape of a definite proportion of the produce, while the remainder, increased or diminished in proportion to his industry, serves to identify his interests with those of his employer. I make this suggestion because I am most anxious that no measure should be overlooked which might tend to arrest the decline in the amount of exportable produce, and give to the mass of the population an interest in its augmentation. But although I see with regret the continued depression of the

planters of Demerara, it is impossible to read your reports (and those from the West Indian colonies generally), without acknowledging with satisfaction and thankfulness the happy accomplishment of the primary objects of the great measure of negro emancipation, in the unvarying testimony borne, and nowhere more strikingly than in British Guiana, not only to the physical comfort and prosperity of the negro population, but to the far more important facts of the rapid improvement in their social, moral, and religious condition. Your Despatch, No. 177, is only one of many which furnish most gratifying proofs that in all these respects the negro population as a body have vindicated the most sanguine expectations of their advocates, and have honourably silenced the prejudices of those who were disposed to deny their capacity for elevating themselves above a very low scale in the great human family.

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STANLEY.

(No. 161.)

No. 61.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 30th November, 1841.

THE steamer Venezuela, purchased by the colony at the beginning of this year, was, on its return from Rio de Janeiro, sent by orders of the Court of Policy to make a tour of the islands to bring back such persons as were disposed to emigrate to this province.

No. 61.

Having no agents in the islands, I thought it right to allow Mr. Hackett, the Agent-general, to embark on board the Venezuela, that information might be obtained as to the probability of any great prospect of emigration from the islands.

His voyage was not a successful one; much and perhaps natural opposition was made to the object of his voyage. His report, which I have the honour to transmit, will best show what was the nature of the opposition.

I have always been opposed to any attempt to seduce the labourers from the islands, where their industry was of value; but in Nevis, Montserrat, and Anguilla, there is neither labour nor hire, and to those quarters Mr. Hackett was desired to turn his attention. From those quarters, as well as from St. Kitts, this colony is constantly receiving an influx of labourers, but local impediments were adverse to the successful voyage of the Venezuela.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure in No. 61.

REPORT of the Agent-General on the Prospects of Emigration from the Antilles to British Guiana.

Encl. in No. 61.

Sir, Office of the Agent-General for Immigration, November 19, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor and the Honourable the Committee of Immigration, my return with the Venezuela steamer, from a tour through that portion of the West India Islands recommended by the committee, and having for its object the double purpose of affording an immediate free passage to emigrants by the return of the vessel hither, and also to make the most advantageous arrangements for the future operations of the steamer in the conveyance of labourers to this colony.

With reference to the first part of this service, I regret very much to state that, from circumstances the most vexatious and embarrassing, and over which I had no control, my endeavours have not met with that success which I could wish, having returned with only 25 emigrants on board; but, as regards the latter, I feel justified in anticipating a much more favourable result, providing his Excellency may deem it advisable to adopt such measures as may have the effect of removing the existing obstacles to emigration, and which are now depriving the labouring classes of these islands of their rights and liberties as free men.

In accordance with my instructions, I first proceeded with the vessel to the island of Nevis (the station of our late emigration agent, Mr. Nicholson), it having been supposed, from the tenor of that gentleman's correspondence, that a considerable number of labourers had been engaged by him, and might still be desirous of a passage hither; it proved, however, that from the want of conveyances at the time, that they had gone to Trinidad. Having arrived, and sent notices through the island, several applications were made for passage, and the names of the parties enrolled; and upon conferring with Dr. Nicholson (the late agent's brother) it appeared most advisable that I should proceed towards Anguilla, touching at St. Kitts, to make similar arrangements there, engage coals, &c., and call at both islands on my return for such labourers as could get ready during the interim.

BRITISH GUIANA

We proceeded accordingly to St. Kitts, after a stay of about three days at Nevis; engaged 50 hogsheads of coals there, and having sent a number of placards into the country, to apprise the labourers of our arrival, &c., the intended time of our return, and enrolling several names, left the island, after two days' stay, with the hope of some success on our return.

I found the condition of the people of Anguilla fully justifying the most unfavourable reports which had previously been made respecting them; miserably lodged in grass huts, scarcely affording them a shelter, and very scantily clothed and fed. Many of them informed me that from a bit to a bit and a half was the most that an able field labourer could get for a day's work, without any other allowance, and even that sum, in most instances, was but nominal, as they could not get it (if at all) for months after due. There appeared to be a general wish among them to come to British Guiana, but they said that the present time was inconvenient, as they were unwilling to abandon their crops of ground provisions, &c., then in a state of forwardness, besides their salt, which they had just gathered; but that many of them would be ready shortly after Christmas, could an opportunity then be afforded them of going to British Guiana.

The president of the island, Major Græme, upon whom I waited, appeared to feel fully satisfied of the advantages which the people would derive by calling here, and expressed, in the presence of the stipendiary magistrate, his intention of throwing no obstacles in their way. I remained at Anguilla about three days, in the expectation that some of the people would still come with me, but for the reasons already given, which appeared to be general, they did not do so. We, therefore, came away on the fourth day, bringing only one family of four persons with us.

On returning to St. Kitts, we proceeded immediately to take the coals on board; and that I might not be charged with disrespect to the authorities, I called on the officer who administered the Government, the Honourable Mr. Crook, President of the Council. My reception was cold and repulsive, and the conversation which followed sufficiently proved how little favour I had to expect in that quarter, as it ended in a threat to seize the vessel, because coals had been purchased for her previous to bond being given at the Colonial Secretary's office; and a strong expression of his determination to allow no person to leave the island until all the forms required by law had been fully complied with.

We waited a few days, in the expectation of the labourers coming whose names had been enrolled; only a few of them, however, came, and said that false accounts had been made out against them for moneys which they did not owe, in order to prevent their going away, but that they would follow the vessel over to Nevis, and proceed with us from thence; and that the others, who also intended coming, were deterred from doing so, owing to a report which had been circulated that the steamer would not take them to Demerara, but to some remote part of the colony.

We now proceeded again to Nevis, in the expectation of better success, and also with the intention of remaining there as many days as would enable us to go direct to Barbados, independently of the quarantine regulations, for I had written to Mr. Gill, of that island, from Anguilla, apprising him of my intention, and requesting his assistance in procuring labourers for me, sending him at the same time a number of printed bills for circulation.

It is almost needless to say the mortification I experienced on returning to Nevis to find that the infamous falsehood respecting the steamer's destination had been circulated there also during my absence. This report was said to have emanated from some of the small emigrant vessels for the purpose of keeping the passengers for themselves, and so effectually did it succeed, that every assurance which I could give to the contrary failed to remove the impression; and after remaining a week in fruitless endeavours to procure people, I was ultimately obliged to come away with only two from the island, one of whom, John Richardson, a person of much influence among the labourers, both at Nevis and Anguilla, I have brought for the purpose of seeing the colony, and of bearing testimony, on his return, of circumstances relative to it, and of the imposition which had been practised upon those intending emigration left behind.

Previous to leaving Nevis, a person arrived from Montserrat and stated that 16 labourers were ready there to embark for Demerara. It being but little out of the way, and feeling every unwillingness to return home with an empty vessel, I determined at once to call for them. The appearance of the steamer at the island next morning appeared to excite a great deal of interest and curiosity among the people; the shores were crowded with spectators. I went ashore and found a great many of the working population desirous of emigrating to Demerara. I had the vessel brought to anchor, and despatched messengers into the country to announce our arrival, &c.; in less than three days nearly 60 names were enrolled, almost all field labourers, and ready at once to go on board; security, however, had first to be given at the Colonial Secretary's office, but no one could be found to sign the bond. In vain were every means resorted to for five days before an eligible bondsman could be got, until Mr. Robert Dyett, to relieve me from my embarrassment, kindly offered to be security; another freeholder was still, however, to be found, which caused a further delay of three days more. This obstacle at length surmounted, the people commenced embarking, but were soon again stopped by large demands made upon them, some as high as 40 dollars, and although they declared they owed no such debts, the object, which was to stop them, was equally accomplished, leaving me no alternative but that of putting them ashore again, which was done with the exception of fifteen only, whom we brought away.

I gave Mr. Dyett a guarantee on behalf of the colony, indemnifying him against any loss as bondsman for the vessel.

Touched at Martinique for passengers, and proceeded to Barbados, where, finding that no labourers were prepared to embark, left the island after two days' stay, and arrived here on Saturday the 6th instant.

From the foregoing statement it will appear obvious, that until some arrangement shall have been made to afford legal facilities to the labourers of these islands to emigrate by the appointment of respectable resident agents, or the removal by Government of those local obstacles, and much abused forms of law, by which a great portion of the labouring population are virtually held in bondage, it can answer no useful purpose to send the steamer there again.

The islands from which the labourers appeared most desirous of emigrating are Nevis, Anguilla, and Montserrat, comprising together a population of about 16,000. At the latter island particularly there appeared to be but one wish and one intention expressed, that of coming to British Guiana whenever they might have the power to do so.

Emigration from the Antilles to Trinidad seemed not only to have entirely ceased, but a re-action to have taken place; several vessels having arrived at the islands where we were, with returning emigrants, most of whom were invalids who complained much of the unhealthiness of the country (Naparima district), and gave that and the reduced rate of wages, &c., as their reasons for not remaining there.

A gentleman who arrived by one of these vessels at Montserrat, informed me that great dissatisfaction prevailed among the emigrants when he came away, and that a large portion of them were wishing to go to Demerara.

The amount of disbursements on account of the steamer during this tour has not exceeded 1200 dollars, the greater part of which has been for coals, (50 hhds. at St. Kitts, and 40 at Montserrat,) a detailed statement of all which, with vouchers, will be laid over, in reference to which I beg to add, that the strictest economy has been observed, and fuel always saved when the vessel could be propelled under canvas alone.

I am, &c.,

(Signed)

JAMES HACKETT, Agent-General for Immigration.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 162.)

No. 62.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, November 30, 1841.

I HAD the honour of stating to your Lordship in my Despatch, No. 149, date 8th November, that I had received a communication from the British Consul at the Havannah, and I transmitted copy of my reply.

I have the honour to report to your Lordship, that the Venezuela steamer was despatched on the 26th instant to the Havannah, with a letter to the Consul, of which I transmit copy.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

No. 62.

Page 118.

Enclosure in No. 62.

Sir,

Guiana Public Buildings, 16th November, 1841.

REFERRING to the communication which I had the honour of addressing to you, by desire of his Excellency Governor Light, in reply to your letters of 4th September, I beg to enclose a duplicate thereof, and to acquaint you that the steamer Venezuela, Atkinson, master, belonging to the local Government of this colony, is now despatched to convey such liberated Africans as may be desirous of agricultural employment in British Guiana, and as you may feel yourself authorised to send hither.

Encl. in No. 62.

I have, &c.

D. Turnbull, Esq.
&c. &c.

(Signed)

H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

(A true Copy.)

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

(No. 168.)

No. 63.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, December 11, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying letter from Mr. Rose, member of the Court of Policy, with a petition signed by upwards of 950 persons, praying that Her Majesty's Government would be pleased to sanction an ordinance to raise a sum of money on loan on the security of the revenue of the colony, to be applied to the encouragement of the immigration of unindentured labourers.

No. 63.

BRITISH GUIANA

Having given my opinions on this subject, I shall not repeat them.

I have the honour to forward copy of the account of money expended for emigration purposes to the 9th instant, and of the sums voted for the same in 1841.

I have also the honour to forward statement of the number of persons introduced into this colony from all parts of the world, since my proclamation, giving effect to the ordinance passed by Sir Henry M'Leod for the introduction of emigrants; of these one-half are from Madeira, which source will cease on 1st March next.

It is for your Lordship to decide whether a greater influx than that of the present year is likely to be obtained in 1842, or whether it be advisable to promote a simultaneous introduction of a much larger number than have arrived, at the price of mortgaging the general revenues of the colony for many successive years, to pay interest and sinking fund at the rate of 30,000*l.* to 35,000*l.* sterling per annum, very little less than the sum actually expended this year for the introduction of upwards of 7000 persons.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure 1, in No. 63.

Immigration Office, December 24th, 1841.

Encl. 1, in No. 63.

REPORT of Immigrants into the Colony of British Guiana from the 18th February to the 30th November, 1841.

Where from.	Adults.		Under 14 and over 7 Years.		Under 7 Years.		Total.		Grand Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Madeira	1,199	1,060	424	420	401	356	2,024	1,836	3,860	} Landed at the Port of Demerara.
West India Islands . .	1,337	554	101	67	98	90	1,536	711	2,247	
Sierra Leone . . .	277	94	6	7	12	8	295	109	404	
Rio de Janeiro . . .	88	57	84	70	..	..	172	127	299	
West India Islands . .	331	66	12	9	18	9	361	84	445	} Landed at the Port of Berbice.
Rio de Janeiro . . .		Not	yet	classified.			232	147	379	
Total number arrived	2,901	1,765	615	564	511	454	4,620	3,014	7,634	

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

JAMES HACKETT, Agent-General for Immigration.

Enclosure 2, in No. 63.

Encl. 2, in No. 63. EXTRACT from Receiver-General's statement of money voted and paid for emigration purposes.

RECAPITULATION.

		Dolrs.	Cents.	Dolrs.	Cents.
£39,034.	Money voted for immigration purposes, Anno, 1841 .	404,000	0		
	Expended	189,352	5		
	Balance left			214,647	91
£44,712.	Money voted for purchase of steamers	72,000	0		
	Expended	48,000	0		
	Balance left			24,000	
£49,718.	Total unexpended			238,647	0

(Signed) M. J. RETEMEYER, Colonial Receiver-General.

Guiana Public Buildings, 9th December, 1841.

(True Copy.)
HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure 3 in No. 63.

My Lord,

Demerara, 6th December, 1841.

Encl. 3, in No. 63.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordships consideration a memorial signed by upwards of 950 persons, inhabitants of British Guiana, of all classes, praying that Her

Majesty's Government will be pleased to sanction the passing of an Ordinance by the Court of Policy, to raise a sum of money on loan on the security of the revenue of the colony, to be applied to the encouragement of the immigration of unindentured labourers. BRITISH GUIANA

The documents, which accompany the memorial, will explain to your Lordship the measures that had been previously taken by the memorialists in furtherance of the same object.

The memorial is addressed to your Lordship's predecessor in office, having been prepared before the late change in the administration, and should have been transmitted at an earlier period, but for the delay occasioned by sending it for signature to the different districts of the colony.

Earnestly requesting your Lordship's favourable consideration of the prayer of the memorialists, I respectfully take leave to bring under your Lordship's notice the Despatch, No. 24, of Lord John Russell to Sir John Jeremie, late Governor of Sierra Leone, dated Downing-street, 20th March, 1841, in which his Lordship expressed his decided approbation of the establishment of a regular intercourse between Africa and the West Indies. Such an intercourse cannot be established by this country without assistance; the large sums raised last year for immigration purposes having for a time exhausted the diminished resources of the colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PETER ROSE.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

The humble Memorial of the Undersigned Inhabitants of the Colony of British Guiana, to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

HUMBLY SHOWETH,

That in October, 1839, a petition of the inhabitants of British Guiana was transmitted to Her Majesty, which Her Majesty was pleased most graciously to receive.

That your memorialists take leave, most respectfully, to annex hereto a copy of the said petition (Document A). That this petition was generally signed by all classes of the inhabitants of the colony.

That subsequently to the date of this petition, and in support thereof, owing to the increasing conviction on the minds of the inhabitants of the soundness of the views therein enunciated, the Court of Policy, combined with the financial representatives of the inhabitants, did, on the 6th of January, 1841, draw up certain resolutions, Nos. 1 to 6, copy of which is herewith respectfully submitted (Document B). That the Loan Bill, to which the resolution No. 4 of the above has reference, a copy of which Bill is herewith respectfully submitted (Document C), having been, with the permission of his Excellency Sir Henry M'Leod, brought before the Honourable the Court of Policy on the 13th of January, 1841, was then read a first time, and was ordered to be brought up for a second reading on Friday the 15th January, 1841. That the said Bill was not further proceeded with in the Court of Policy, but was referred, as a "Money Bill," by Sir Henry M'Leod to the Combined Court.

That thereupon the Combined Court did, by their resolutions of 22d January, 1841, Nos. 1 to 10, copy of which is herewith respectfully submitted (Document D), request his Excellency Sir H. M'Leod to forward to Her Majesty the said Bill, and to use his influence to obtain the allowance of the said Bill.

That the Combined Court, in support of the said Bill, and in furtherance of the views expressed in the petition to Her Majesty (Document A), did upon the same date, to wit, the 22nd January, 1841, address a petition to Her Majesty, copy of which is herewith respectfully submitted (Document E).

That subsequently to the proceedings above detailed, the Combined Court, imbued with a deep sense of the importance of the measures propounded in the documents already referred to, did, upon the 19th June, 1841, being then about to close the session of the present year, and not having up to that time received any intimation of the fate of the Bill forwarded for Her Majesty's approval by his Excellency Sir H. M'Leod, renew their request to his Excellency the Governor, that he would be pleased to represent to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, their increasing conviction of the necessity of the measure, and their unabated desire that it should become law; a copy of which request is herewith respectfully submitted (Document F).

That, pending the consideration of Her Majesty and Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies on these petitions and resolutions, the Combined Court, feeling the absolute necessity of promoting immigration, did provide for the raising of the large amount of 336,000 dollars by taxation in the year 1841, to be applied, together with an amount of 40,000 dollars raised in the year 1839, to the furtherance of immigration.

That the beneficial effects of this measure are already felt in the progressive influx of immigrants from various places.

That since the 18th of February, 1841, at which date the present Immigration Ordinance came into operation, 5,600 are arrived.

That a continuance of this influx of population may be confidently expected, if the means of defraying the expense are provided.

That it is to the influx of population alone that your memorialists can look for a continuance of the existence of this country as an exporting colony, or as in any way a valuable appendage to the British Crown, inasmuch as the number of labourers who have already arrived, is far

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BRITISH GUIANA from being sufficient to supply the place of those who have retired from the cultivation of the staple exports of the colony.

That your memorialists can with confidence refer to the reports of the stipendiary magistrates made to his Excellency the Governor, to prove that the immigrants already arrived here are contented and happy, and that their condition has been greatly improved by their removal to this country.

That the high prices of produce which prevailed during the greater part of last year enabled the colonists to bear the high rate of taxation then imposed upon them for purposes of immigration, but now that the productions of the colony have greatly fallen in value, without any prospect of permanent improvement, it is perfectly impossible that the colonists can continue to bear so onerous a burden, and the consequence will be that immigration must altogether cease as soon as the fund at present provided for that purpose becomes expended, which at the existing rate will be in a very few months.

That the only means of averting a calamity so fatal to this colony as the cessation of immigration, which offers itself to your memorialists, is the raising of a loan as provided in the Bill (Document C).

That the resources of the colony, as they would be developed by such an increase of population as may reasonably be calculated upon, would prove amply sufficient to defray the interest and to redeem by annual instalments the capital of such a loan, without oppressing the taxpayers at any one time.

That it does not appear reasonable that the whole expense of the introduction of labourers should be defrayed by the present race of tax-payers, while the benefits to accrue from an increase of population will be enjoyed principally by their successors.

Your memorialists therefore humbly pray that your Lordship will be pleased to take the premises into your Lordship's favourable consideration, and to intimate to his Excellency the Governor Her Majesty's approval that he should proceed with the Loan Bill, introduced into the Court of Policy on 13th January, 1841.

Your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

DOCUMENT A.

THAT your petitioners are inhabitants of Your Majesty's colony of British Guiana, many of them natives thereof, others who have adopted it as their home, and all interested in the prosperity of what they believe they are justified in calling one of the most valuable appendages of the British Crown.

That the importance of British Guiana, as a colony, and as a mart for British manufactures, is to be estimated less by reference to what it is, and has been, than to what it is capable of becoming.

That in order to illustrate this position, your petitioners would represent that there are in this colony immense tracts of land, allowed by all not to be surpassed in fertility by any other in the world; while the population of this extensive province does not, at this moment, amount to more than one individual in the square mile.

That your petitioners would also advert to the great superiority, that a colony forming an integral portion of the empire, and, as such, subject to the authority of the Imperial Parliament, possesses, as a mart for British manufactures, over any foreign state; the mutual intercourse between the parent state and its dependency, not being liable to be disturbed by capricious changes in a system of commercial policy.

That your petitioners would humbly represent to Your Majesty, that the operation of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, and the Act for Total Emancipation, has so diminished the number of agricultural labourers, that not only are vast tracts of fertile soil lying in this colony unproductive (tracts, which if cultivated, would give support to many thousands of Your Majesty's subjects, and add large sums to Your Majesty's revenue,) but that, of the estates in cultivation, some are already deeply injured by the abstraction of labour from the production of the staple exportable commodities, while other estates must inevitably be abandoned, unless the supply of labour to British Guiana be speedily and largely increased beyond its present extent.

That your petitioners would, therefore, state that so far as this colony is concerned, the disability under which it labours, and which impairs its strength, and contracts the means of production, is a deficiency of labour and industry.

That this state of things is not only pregnant with ruin to the landed interest of this colony, but prejudicial to the moral condition of the labourers themselves, as idleness tends to increase, and is almost universally the originator and companion of crime.

That the remedy for all these evils is simple, and is, in the opinion of your petitioners, attainable without any sacrifice of those principles of humanity and policy, which ought to influence a question of this nature and magnitude, but is on the contrary, characterised and recommended by its forwarding the ends of these great principles of right: that the adoption of the means to accomplish this remedy, will prevent the destruction of the capital of many of Your Majesty's subjects, and will prevent the demoralization of others: That it will open a field for the employment of a large additional amount of capital, and will afford an opportunity to many thousands, of transferring their services and industry from countries where they are very inadequately rewarded, to one where the fertility of the soil, and demand for their labour, will ensure them comfortable and even abundant subsistence.

That your petitioners most respectfully assure Your Majesty, that British Guiana has substantial advantages to offer to a portion of the vast population of India, as well as to immigrants from other quarters; and that their condition would be greatly advanced, physically and morally, by immigration to this colony.

That your petitioners have learned, with the deepest regret, that an ordinance, framed by his Excellency the Governor and the Honourable Court of Policy, for encouragement of immigration, has failed to receive your Majesty's assent, and humbly trust that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to give your royal assent to another ordinance, to be passed by his Excellency the Governor and Court of Policy, embracing such principles of humanity and justice, as to Your Majesty may seem meet.

That your petitioners entertain a hope that Your Majesty will be pleased to sanction a plan for raising, through his Excellency and the Honourable Court of Policy, combined with the financial representatives of the inhabitants of the colony, a sum not exceeding 400,000*l.* on loan, for the purpose of carrying an extensive project of immigration into effect.

That your petitioners consider a loan desirable, because they feel convinced that the colony is not at present able to raise so large a sum of money within itself; but they are, at the same time, confident that a plan of immigration, on an extensive scale being adopted and acted upon, will very soon enable the colony not only to bear the interest of the loan, but ultimately to pay off the principal.

That your petitioners, having every desire to support the administration of law and justice, and to extend the system of religious and moral instruction at present existing here, consider that immigration, on an extensive scale, is more than anything else calculated to enable the colony to do justice to these claims and to pursue a liberal and enlightened course of policy.

That it is the firm conviction of your petitioners, that a very large immigration would not decrease the rate of wages below what it is at present; and that it is universally allowed by all unprejudiced parties, that the labourers of this colony, however numerically increased, could with ease earn more than sufficient to maintain themselves and their families in comfort and abundance.

That your petitioners found their conclusion that wages will not be reduced upon the natural capabilities of the colony, which will insure the demand for labour increasing in a much greater ratio than the supply; and further, your petitioners found their hopes of benefiting by immigration, upon the certainty that, if the colony increases in wealth and population, all classes of the community cannot fail to prosper.

That your petitioners deeply deplore the manner in which many unfounded representations, seriously affecting the character and credit of this colony, and its inhabitants, are industriously circulated in the mother country, the effects of which are alike prejudicial to its prospects of improvement and commercial prosperity: that while they strongly deprecate the erroneous impressions and views thus disseminated to their disadvantage among their fellow subjects in Great Britain, they have no hesitation in expressing their earnest desire to court the strictest inquiry into the real situation of this province, both as to its physical capabilities and moral conditions.

Your petitioners, therefore, approach Your Majesty's Throne, and supplicate Your Majesty's gracious assistance. The importance, and even the existence, of British Guiana, as a productive colony, depends on Your Majesty. Without the speedy supply of labour, which can only be procured by means of such funds as they now propose to raise, the capital sunk in buildings, machinery, &c. will be thrown away; and the labouring population, for whose moral advancement such sacrifices have been made by Great Britain and this colony, will speedily degenerate into a state of barbarism.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray,—

That Your most excellent Majesty may be graciously pleased to entertain with favour, these, your petitioners' views in regard to the necessity of an extensive scheme of immigration into this colony, and, in furtherance thereof to withdraw the restrictions at present in force against the immigration of labourers into this colony, from the East Indies and elsewhere, and to sanction an ordinance to be passed by his Excellency the Governor, and the Honourable the Court of Policy for the regulation of immigration; and, further, that Your most excellent Majesty may be graciously pleased to allow the necessary funds to be raised by means of a loan on the security of the colony.

DOCUMENT B.

1. Resolved, That this Court having received the copy of a Bill intended to become an ordinance, for settling upon her Majesty a certain and competent revenue for defraying the expenses of the civil government of British Guiana, until the 31st day of December, 1847, under certain provisions and qualifications, copy of which Bill is hereunto annexed; and having taken the same into consideration, now beg to suggest to his Excellency the Governor, for and on behalf of Majesty, her heirs and successors, certain alterations in the said Bill, as contained in the draft hereunto annexed.

2. That this Court, having also received the copy of another Bill intended to be passed into an ordinance to levy a duty upon all imports into British Guiana, now take leave to declare that they are ready and willing, and now offer to pass, an ordinance in the terms of the draft hereunto annexed.

BRITISH GUIANA

3. Resolved, That this Court earnestly recommend his Excellency to allow the immediate introduction into the Court of Policy of a Bill for the encouragement of immigration, and for the protection of persons immigrating to this colony.

4. That this Court earnestly recommend to his Excellency the Governor to allow the immediate introduction into the Court of Policy of a Bill for raising a loan for immigration and other purposes, not exceeding 400,000*l.*, with a proviso, nevertheless, that it shall not be competent to the colony to negotiate, at any one time, a larger sum than 100,000*l.*, without the sanction and approbation of Her Majesty, such Bill, if carried through its various stage and passed into an ordinance, not to be published or promulgated until Her Majesty's allowance thereof shall have been first had and obtained.

5. Resolved, That until the allowance or disallowance of the said loan ordinance, this court shall be allowed to apply to immigration purposes the sum of 30,000*l.* raised for the payment of the interest and sinking fund of an anticipated loan, and now in the chest, and such further and other sums as shall from time to time be deemed necessary.

6. Resolved, That in the event of Her Majesty disallowing the loan ordinance, this Court shall, nevertheless, be at liberty to raise annually a sum not exceeding 30,000*l.* for immigration purposes.

DOCUMENT C.

A BILL to raise a sum of Money, to vest the same in Trustees, and to provide for having the power of disposing of the said Money for the encouragement of the Immigration of Non-indentured labourers.

Whereas the Court of Policy, combined with the financial representatives of this colony have passed certain resolutions, declaring that it is expedient, and for the interest of this colony to encourage the immigration of labourers not bound to any particular employer, nor for any specific period of time; and that to effect this end it is desirable that a sum of money, not exceeding four hundred thousand pounds sterling, be raised in bonds issued in the name and on the security of the Governor and Court of Policy, bearing interest and redeemable at certain fixed periods; and that the said interest and other claims against the colony, on account of the proposed loan, shall be preferent against the colony after the present or any future civil list. And whereas an ordinance having been passed, regulating and encouraging the immigration of labourers into British Guiana, it is necessary to provide for the appointment and succession of trustees in England, to raise the money and manage the loan, and also to make other regulations for the due raising, managing, securing, and redeeming the said loan.

Clause 1. Be it therefore enacted, That shall be, as they are
hereby declared to be, appointed trustees in England under this ordinance, for raising and managing the money hereinafter proposed to be raised, and that the acts of any three of these or any other trustees, duly appointed under the provisions of this ordinance, shall be as binding upon the colony as the acts of the five would be under this ordinance. And that, in the event of any vacancy occurring by death, resignation, or any other cause whatsoever, it shall be lawful for the remaining trustees, or any three of them, to fill up such vacancy; and that any appointment of a trustee so made shall hold good, and the powers of the trustee so appointed be as ample as those of any other trustee, until the pleasure of the Court of Policy be made known to the trustees.

2. And be it further enacted, That the Court of Policy shall possess the power of cancelling the appointment of any trustee, whether appointed by this ordinance, or in any other manner under this ordinance, also of filling up any vacancy that may occur, and of confirming or annulling any appointment that may be made by the trustees at home, as hereinbefore provided; and that a copy of any minute of the Court of Policy, signed by the secretary of the Court, and authenticated by the Governor, under the seal of the colony, shall be sufficient authority to enable the trustees to act under this ordinance.

3. And be it further enacted, That the trustees for the time being shall have full power and authority to issue bonds in the name of the Court of Policy, combined with the financial representatives of British Guiana, for the several amounts of fifty pounds, one hundred pounds, two hundred pounds, two hundred and fifty pounds, four hundred pounds, five hundred pounds, and one thousand pounds sterling, or for any amount not less than fifty pounds or more than one thousand pounds sterling, which may be rendered necessary by the provisions hereinbefore laid down for the gradual reduction of the debt; provided that the sum so raised, and the gross amount of bonds so to be issued, shall not exceed four hundred thousand pounds sterling money of Great Britain, and that there shall not be raised in any one year a greater sum than one hundred thousand pounds, unless with the consent and approbation of Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, first had and obtained, and that the interest to be paid on said loan, and on any part thereof, shall not exceed five pounds per cent. per annum.

4. And be it further enacted, That the interest on the said bonds shall be made payable half-yearly by the trustees in London; and that the said bonds shall be so expressed as to make them subject to all the provisions of this ordinance.

5. And be it further enacted, That the trustees, as acting under this ordinance, shall, at the expiration of twelve calendar months after the loan hereinbefore mentioned shall have been contracted, redeem or reduce bonds to the amount of one-eightieth part of the original amount of the bonds actually issued; that a redemption or reduction to the like amount shall take place and be made every six calendar months thereafter; and that is to say, the trustees shall cause all the bonds to be numbered with a different number for each bond, and one ticket for

each sum of fifty pounds sterling, which may be in the amount of bonds actually and for the time being in existence, to be prepared; and the number borne by each bond shall be written upon as many tickets as there are sums of fifty pounds in said bond. The trustees shall then cause as many tickets as there may be sums of fifty pounds in the eightieth part of the original amount of the bonds actually issued to be drawn at random, in the presence of proper witnesses, and shall then cause to be made out and published in the London Gazette, within one week after such drawing shall have taken place, a list of the numbers appearing on the tickets so drawn, and shall call, at the same time, on the holders of the bonds bearing the said numbers to come forward at a certain place to be there named, and receive payment of the amount to be reduced or redeemed on a certain day, to be also named, after which day interest on the bonds so distinguished shall cease. Provided, however, that the drawing of lots, as aforesaid, shall take place on a day not more than three nor less than two calendar months, anterior to the day appointed for the drawing of lots as aforesaid.

6. And be it further enacted, That on any bond, bearing any one of the numbers drawn and announced in the London Gazette, as herein-before provided, being presented at or after the time and at the place fixed by the trustees, and duly notified by them as hereinbefore provided, it shall be given up to and cancelled by the trustees, on all interest due thereon being paid, on fifty pounds sterling being paid to the holder of said bond for every ticket bearing the number of said bond which had been drawn, and on a new bond being granted by the trustees for the balance (if any) of the former bond, and the amount so paid off.

7. And be it further enacted, That the new bonds so granted shall be numbered and dealt with in the same manner as the original bonds, shall be liable to be redeemed in the same manner, shall bear the same rate of interest, and shall, in all respects, be subject to the same conditions as the original bonds.

8. And be it further enacted, That there shall be appointed by the Governor and Court of Policy, three Commissioners, to be styled Immigration Commissioners of British Guiana; and that in the event of any vacancy occurring by the death or resignation of any one or more of said Commissioners, or from any other cause whatsoever, any and every such vacancy shall be filled up by the Governor and Court of Policy.

9. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Receiver-General and Assistant-Receiver-General, and they are hereby authorised and required, to pay over, in sufficient time, to the said Immigration Commissioners, on their requisition, such sums of money as shall be required to meet the demands that may be made against the trustees in London, by virtue of this ordinance and of the bonds issued under its provisions.

10. And be it further enacted, That the Board of Commissioners shall demand, as they are hereby required to demand, from the Receiver-General and Assistant-Receiver-General, such sums of money as shall be required by the trustees in London, for the purposes of this ordinance, and shall remit, as they are hereby required to remit, the same in sufficient time to the trustees, so as to enable them to meet the engagements of the colony under this ordinance; and that all sums of money demandable from and due by the colony in virtue of this ordinance shall be debts against the revenue of this colony, preferent to all other debts, except those payable by the colony in virtue of the present or any future civil-list ordinance.

11. And be it further enacted, That the trustees in London shall invest all surplus funds, that is to say, any portion of the money raised in virtue of this Act, and not drawn for, as hereinbefore provided by the Commissioners here, in the stock of Great Britain or in British Exchequer Bills, as to them may appear most advantageous.

12. And be it further enacted, That the trustees shall be bound to accept and pay the bills of the Immigration Commissioners, to the amount of the sums at any time remaining in their hands, or otherwise remit the money to the said Commissioners, as directed by them.

13. And be it further enacted, That the said Immigration Commissioners in British Guiana for the time being, shall have full power and authority to dispose of the money raised under this ordinance, in furtherance of the objects of the ordinance passed this Session, regulating the immigration of free labourers into this colony, and authorizing the said Commissioners to offer a premium to parties bearing the cost of bringing certain people, therein particularized, to this colony, and also to charter vessels and employ agents, at certain places therein specified, to induce labourers and their families to immigrate to this colony. Provided, nevertheless, that it shall not be lawful for the said Immigration Commissioners to expend any portion of the money to be raised under the provisions of this ordinance, excepting for the encouragement of the immigration of labourers not indentured to any particular person, but free to work for what person or for what wages they please. Provided, also, that it shall not be lawful for the said Immigration Commissioners to enter into any agreement for sending back any persons immigrating to their native countries, unless it is provided by any such agreement that the right to be sent back shall be acquired only on payment of a sum equal to the cost of so sending back by the person desirous of being so sent.

14. And be it further enacted, That the said Immigration Commissioners shall, at each yearly meeting of the Combined Court, lay before it a full and particular account of the receipts, the expenditure, and the state of the funds in their hands or under their control, and also of their outstanding engagements; and that the Combined Court shall have full power and authority to limit or prohibit the further expenditure of the said Immigration Commissioners. Provided, nevertheless, that all existing engagements of the said Immigration Commissioners shall be made good, and that due notice shall be given of the suspension or reduction of any premium that may have been offered by them for the encouragement of immigration.

15. And be it further enacted, That no money raised in furtherance of the objects of this ordinance shall be expended either by the authority of the Immigration Commissioners, or by

BRITISH GUIANA the Combined Court, on any other objects than those for the encouragement of free immigration; and that in the event of the Combined Court prohibiting the further expenditure of the funds raised for the above purpose, and the objects of this ordinance being finally abandoned, any balance of funds remaining in their hands, or under the control of the said Immigration Commissioners, shall be appropriated to the liquidation or reduction of the bonds due by the colony for funds raised for the purpose of carrying the objects of this ordinance into effect, and not to any other purpose whatsoever.

DOCUMENT D.

RESOLVED, 1. That a short experience, say from the 1st August, 1838, to the present time has afforded just grounds of apprehension and alarm; that without immigration, and that to a great extent, the exportable productions of this colony, entirely agricultural, must annually decrease.

2. That the fertility of the soil of this colony renders it competent to the agriculturist to give, and the labourer to receive, a rate of wages seldom equalled, and not surpassed, by any country in the world.

3. That the decrease of exportable products, not only in this colony, but in all the West-India possessions of the British Crown, has so enhanced the price of sugar in the British market, as to have induced a demand for the importation into the British market of foreign sugars, the produce of slave labour, at a reduced rate of duties.

4. That Government must either acquiesce in this demand, or the people of Great Britain, the consumers, must submit to the high price of British plantation sugars.

5. That to obviate the dilemma thus existing, immigration into the West Indies in general, and especially into British Guiana, is a practicable, easy, and obvious remedy.

6. That the introduction into this colony of immigrants will not only be beneficial to the consumers in the mother country, but will be beneficial to the interests at large of Great Britain; will be productive of great advantages, moral, civil, and religious, to the immigrants themselves, and will afford the most effectual means of extinguishing slavery throughout the world.

7. That the extent of immigration to produce the aforesaid beneficial results should be commensurate with the wants of the colony.

8. That it is impossible to introduce immigrants in sufficient numbers to secure the aforesaid beneficial results without the command of large capital.

9. That, considering the financial resources of the colony, it is inexpedient and impossible to raise, in any one year, the large sum necessary for the accomplishment of the aforesaid objects.

10. That a loan affords not only a safe and secure, but an easy means of acquiring for this colony the desired objects. And that his Excellency Colonel Sir Henry M'Leod, K.H. and K.S.W., Governor of British Guiana, &c. &c. &c., be requested, as he is hereby requested, to forward to Her Majesty the Bill, entitled "A Bill to raise a sum of money, to vest the same in trustees, and to provide for having the power of disposing of the said money for the encouragement of the immigration of non-indentured labourers," with a recommendation that the same may be allowed to be passed into an ordinance, with such alterations, additions, and amendments as to Her Majesty may seem meet. And that his Excellency will be further pleased to use his influence to obtain the allowance of said Bill or Ordinance.

DOCUMENT E.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, with the Financial Representatives of the Inhabitants of said Colony in Combined Court assembled,

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioners, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, impressed with the conviction of Your Majesty's constant care to improve the condition and to protect the interests of every class of persons in Your Majesty's dominions, approach Your Majesty with sentiments of profound respect for Your royal person, and of entire confidence in the wisdom of Your Majesty's Government.

Your petitioners humbly take leave to state,

That the decrease of the exportable productions of British Guiana since the passing and taking effect of the Emancipation Act has created the most serious apprehensions for the prospective and ultimate welfare of all classes of society in this community.

That the crop of sugar, the staple export of the country, has, within the last four years, fallen off from 60,000 hogsheads to less than 40,000 hogsheads per annum, and this without an increase in any other kind of agricultural production, not excepting even the common and ordinary vegetables of the colony.

That this decrease, combined with the deficiency of crops during the same period throughout Your Majesty's West-India possessions, has materially enhanced the price of sugar, and thereby immediately affected the consumers in the mother country.

That though the enhanced price of sugar has, for a time, enabled the planter to pay a high rate of wages, and thereby produced certain advantages to the labouring man, yet your petitioners humbly submit that, unless a timely remedy be applied, the present ephemeral prosperity of the labourer points to the future disappointment of the planter, and to the utter and irretrievable ruin of the colonists at large, embracing the labourer himself.

That the decrease of exportable production cannot be denied, nor can it be doubted that the abstraction of labour from estates, since the liberation from servitude of the working classes, has been the principal, if not the only cause, of such decrease of productions.

That this abstraction of labour is attributable to the high rate of wages which have existed, and still exist in the colony, as well as to the facility the labourer enjoys in the exuberant fertility of the soil of providing for his daily sustenance by little or no exertion on his part.

These advantages, high wages and facility of sustentation, the labourer of British Guiana naturally endeavours to render permanent by possessing himself of land, which is procurable at a small cost.

That the purchase of land by persons of the class alluded to in countries where land is dear and population dense may and does betoken the prosperity of such persons, is admitted; yet your petitioners submit that, in a country circumstanced as this is, where land is abundant, population scanty, and large outlays required to keep land in cultivation of exportable products, the mere purchasing of land, without additional means to bring it and continue it in cultivation, affords to the possessors a mere sustenance, without any beneficial result to the community at large.

That the decrease in the quantity of free labour sugar in the British market is so considerable as to cause your petitioners to dread the introduction into the British market of foreign sugars, the production of slavery.

That, should this dreaded event occur, your petitioners feel assured that not only will the principle contended for by the British nation, and supported by an immense expenditure, one item of which was a grant of not less than 20,000,000*l.* of sterling money of Great Britain, be subverted and abandoned, but the existence of slavery will be strengthened and perpetuated, the destruction of Your Majesty's West India possessions rendered certain, and the ruin and misery of that very class for whose intended benefit and advantage so many strenuous efforts have been made be irremediably accomplished.

That to afford succour and help to this colony, one thing, and one thing alone, is needful—immigration.

That, were immigration into this colony of labourers, free and unfettered by indentures or otherwise, permitted, the impulse which would thereby be given to the energies of the colony, aided by the power of steam already and soon to be in operation, would enable the province of British Guiana alone to supply to the mother-country sugar in sufficient quantity, not only to compete with but to outrival the slave-produced sugar of other countries.

That thus there is opened a sure and legitimate plan for the extinction of slavery throughout the world. Let production of slavery cease to be remunerated, and slavery itself must cease to exist.

That at present, however, with the decrease of production fearfully in view, and no measures adopted to remedy, by immigration, the evil, your petitioners can see only two alternatives, to one of which the people of England must submit, viz., the high price of sugar, or the abandonment of the principle of extinguishing slavery.

That besides these general views, there are particular ones to which your petitioners would humbly refer.

That to the immigrant arriving here, high wages, fertile land, religious instruction, legal protection through the medium of stipendiary magistrates, and an equality of social, civil, and religious rights, without any distinction of caste or colour, are opened and secured, and in fact to the immigrant, if allowed to proceed from Asia and Africa, there will ensue the blessings consequent on the mighty changes from famine to plenty, from poverty to riches, from barbarism to civilisation, from heathenism to Christianity.

That, moreover, looking in a commercial light, the advantages to Great Britain would be great, inasmuch as the influx of 100,000 immigrants into this colony would lead to additional annual consumption in the colony of at least 100,000*l.* sterling worth of British manufactured goods, besides encouraging British shipping and securing to Your Majesty's kingdom the great benefits accruing from having the permanent consumption of your colony of British Guiana, in contradistinction to the transitory consumption of foreign nations.

For which, and other reasons that will no doubt suggest themselves, your petitioners humbly pray,—

That Your Majesty will be pleased to sanction the introduction into this colony of willing free persons from all parts of the world, to remove all existing restrictions on their natural right to better their condition by voluntary immigration, and especially, as intermediate measures to the accomplishment of these objects, to allow and confirm an Ordinance passed on the 18th day of January, by his Excellency Colonel Sir Henry George M'Leod, K.H. and K.S.W., Governor of British Guiana, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy thereof, entitled "An Ordinance to regulate and encourage Immigration into British Guiana."

And that Your Majesty will be pleased to instruct and direct the Governor of British Guiana, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy thereof, to pass into an Ordinance, and carry into effect when so passed, a Bill entitled "A Bill to raise a sum of Money, to vest the same in Trustees, and to provide for having the power of disposing of the said Money, for the encouragement of the Immigration of Non-indentured Labourers," copy of which is here-

BRITISH GUIANA unto annexed, with such alterations, additions and amendments, as to Your Majesty may seem meet; or, &c.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

DOCUMENT F.

Resolved,—That this Court, deeply impressed with the vital necessity of omitting no opportunity of obtaining by immigration an accession of labour, the prospects for which are happily becoming more and more extensive, has, during this session, notwithstanding the deplorable fall in price of the staple commodities, unrelieved by any well grounded hope of retrieval, raised by extraordinary exertions, in addition to the increased demand upon the public treasury in behalf of churches, schools, and other institutions which the altered condition of the population of the colony has rendered necessary, so large a sum as 70,000*l.* sterling for the purpose of supplying by immigration the want of labour occasioned by emancipation; but the Court feels itself imperatively called upon to declare, that it will be not less an impossibility than an injustice hereafter to impose on the community, for the next three or four ensuing years, the whole expense of the introduction and settlement of labourers here, the result of whose industry will tell with greater effect upon the future than upon the present prosperity of this colony.

Resolved,—That his Excellency Sir Henry Macleod having on the 22nd January last laid before this Court the draft of an Ordinance for authorizing the raising of a loan for immigration purposes, to be redeemed in a series of years on the terms and conditions therein specified, which draft this Court was pleased to approve, sanction, and recommend to the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government, by whom no opinion on the subject has been as yet intimated, this Court takes the present opportunity to renew respectfully their request to his Excellency the Governor that he will be pleased to represent to the Right Honourable the Secretary for the Colonies their increasing conviction of the necessity of this measure, and their unabated desire that it should, at the earliest possible period, become law.

(No. 59.)

No. 64.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Governor LIGHT.

Sir,

Downing-street, 28th February, 1842.

No. 64.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 168, of the 11th December, transmitting a letter from Mr. Rose, and a petition numerously signed, praying that Her Majesty's Government would sanction an Ordinance to raise a sum of money on loan to be applied to the encouragement of immigration.

I have considered these papers with attention. The steps already taken by Her Majesty's Government have evinced their desire to promote a measured and steady immigration into British Guiana. A large immigration of this kind has already taken place without the aid of a loan, and there remains on hand as large a sum applicable to immigration in the current year as was applied to it in the past years; and even if it were expedient to encourage immigration by sudden impulses, and to a larger extent at once than has been done hitherto, I am not aware that the supply of labourers is likely to be such as would answer an increased demand.

Under these circumstances it appears to me to be unnecessary to raise the question of a loan for immigration purposes at the present moment, and it is a question which should be approached with the greatest caution under any circumstances.

I have, &c.

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

No. 65.

(Separate.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY, dated Government House, Demerara, 7th December, 1841.

No. 65.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the blue books for the year 1841, according to the instructions conveyed in Despatch No. 173, date 16th March.

The staple commodities exported to the 30th September present a diminution, as compared with the same period, namely, 10th January to 10th October, 1840, and there will probably be a falling off on the whole year, in the total amount; but this may be accounted for, by the neglect of the planters to keep their cultivation in its proper state, being solely occupied in taking advantage of the high prices, by attention to the manufacture of sugar.

The lands this year give better prospect for the ensuing one, in consequence of better cultivation.

The exports and imports present the same relative proportion, as in former years, the exports being more in value than the imports, in spite of the great diminution in the value of sugar; and it will be seen that the imports are by no means on the decrease.

The planters have complained much during the present year of the heavy cost of cultivating their estates, as compared with the prices of the home market. It is to be hoped, however, that the amount of produce may be increased by greater attention to the quality of the labour performed in the fields, and by the application of mechanical means to the general purposes of agriculture. Money has been already appropriated by the Legislature for the perfection of a canal excavator, propelled by steam; and a planter has obtained a patent in England for a steam plough, of which a committee of agriculturists have reported favourably.

A determination has been expressed by many of the planters to reduce wages, but it is extremely doubtful whether greater economy can be exercised in respect to this item of expense. The demand for labour is so great, and the supply of it so insufficient, that the price must necessarily continue high, and the interests of individuals will frustrate any attempt to lower it, by a combination of planters.

There has been this year also a great scarcity of money, and much financial embarrassment amongst planters and merchants, which perhaps may be fully accounted for by the inordinate speculations into which the high prices of colonial produce last year tempted many of the colonists, and for entering into which the local bank, directed by a number of resident merchants and planters, unsafely numerous for so limited a community, afforded great facilities.

Buildings of every description in town and country are still on the increase, and the purchasers of lands and freeholds continue to be very numerous.

There is every probability that before long, the labourers on estates, will very generally be tenants; nor is it unlikely that a great change in the system of agriculture may convert them into lessees of small portions of the estates to be cultivated in canes, of which the landlord would be the purchaser and manufacturer.

It has been common amongst many planters, to add largely to the passage money of emigrants from the islands, by paying persons to induce the emigrants to proceed direct to particular estates; this has undoubtedly caused augmentation of the expenses of this year, and it is a well known fact, that emigrants from those and other quarters, often change their original locations, by inducements of a pecuniary nature, either in the shape of allowances, or by increase of wages, without taking into account the premium paid to emissaries by those who wished to cause the change of location.

The law for emigration came into effect in February last, since which upwards of 7,600 persons have come here.

The cost of introduction has amounted to 189,352 dollars, out of the original amount voted for emigration purposes.

The mortality amongst the Portuguese, and the great sickness with which so many continue to be afflicted, have shown that they are not a profitable race of

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BRITISH GUIANA labourers, and as I have mentioned in my despatch, No. 157, date 25th November, their introduction will cease after the 1st March next.

Yet in many respects the Portuguese will continue to be, as they are now, very useful colonists.

Formerly the purchase of every necessary of life, was confined to one street or its immediate neighbourhood; now in every quarter of the town, may be found retail shops of every article for general consumption of the labouring class. The shopkeepers, Portuguese, content themselves with trifling profit, and cause a great and quick circulation of ready money, which I believe may be considered an axiom in political economy, as productive of profit in some quarter or another, even the pedlar and huckstering trade is very generally monopolized by the Portuguese.

While an introduction of emigrants is limited to Sierra Leone, the islands, and the captured Africans, who are in my opinion the only races calculated to support the effects of this climate in plantation labour, (unless Coolies are permitted to come here), I do not believe any burthensome expense will attend their introduction, nor do I think an immense sudden influx of emigrants would be advisable. Having often given my opinion on this point, I will not repeat what I have urged on the subject to your Lordship's department. The increased number of patients in the colonial hospital has required additional accommodation. A large house, formerly known as the colony house, has been fitted up for the reception of sick Portuguese alone; and even now, the old and new temporary hospitals are scarcely sufficient for the applications for admittance.

I have some satisfaction in knowing that my early attention to the defective state of the colonial hospital very shortly after my arrival in the colony, produced such changes as may be said to have made the hospital a place which the sick eagerly seek, whilst formerly it was avoided, and only used for a comparatively small number of patients sent there to die, by their poor relatives, to avoid the expense of burial. It is creditable to the colony that no expense has been spared, and every requisition of the colonial surgeon most liberally granted.

The necessity for district hospitals seems daily more apparent, (for the hospitals on estates are now pretty generally disused,) superintended by officers responsible to the executive; they would, I have reason to believe, be very acceptable to the emigrant, generally or often a friendless stranger: such an asylum in case of sickness is indispensable in a country in which indentures are unknown in the rural districts.

I have great pleasure in reporting the steady, orderly conduct and habits of the native peasantry; that they are superior in these respects to the class who emigrate from the islands and elsewhere, may be inferred from the fact that at least 50 per cent. of offences and crimes are by emigrants.

Malignant fever has been very prevalent till lately, throughout the year; and small-pox, introduced from Barbados, sometimes fatal to adults advanced in years, but generally of a mild description. Vaccination has been most zealously promoted by all the medical men of the province.

Education is very generally promoted amongst the labouring classes. The archdeacon is now projecting, with every prospect of success, an institution where the higher branches of education may be obtained. This will be invaluable to the middling classes, who cannot afford to send their children to Europe.

(No. 177.)

No. 66.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, Dec. 26th, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the returns of the Stipendiary Magistrates for the month of November, with summary by Mr. Wolseley ; also separate returns of the Coolies, Portuguese emigrants, Sierra Leone emigrants, and captured Africans. The Coolies, and the two last-mentioned emigrants, continue almost without a casualty.

The deaths amongst the Portuguese are not quite so numerous ; and, on examination of the causes of death, the diseases are not generally from the effects of climate.

I believe, notwithstanding the mortality amongst the Portuguese, that they feel their condition ameliorated by coming to this Colony ; and, animated by the knowledge they have of the facility of making money by their industry, they in no way despond : all who do work give satisfaction to their employers.

In Mr. Wolseley's summary, allusion is made to observations by Mr. Brittain, that some of the employers charge high for cottages, when the occupants do not work for the estates.

If these charges are made and enforced, unless a mutual agreement has been sanctioned by the Stipendiary Magistrate, they are illegal, and, whenever complained of, invariably redressed. Mr. Brittain will be called on to give further explanation.

To the above-mentioned returns is added the return of captured Africans for the month of October, which Mr. Brittain had omitted to send in time to accompany those from the other Stipendiary Magistrates.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley, (Signed) HENRY LIGHT.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 66.

No. 1.

No. 2.

No. 3.

No. 4.

No. 5.

Enclosure 1, in No. 66.

Encl. 1, in No. 66.

EPITOME of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints for November, 1841.

Magistrates.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Offences.	How disposed of.
J. O. L. Mure .	..	. . .	. . .
W. J. Brittain .	..	. . .	. . .
C. R. Whinfield .	..	. . .	. . .
A. M. Lyons. .	3	3 Complaints preferred by journeymen artificers against employers, for the recovery of wages.	Claims admitted ; one forthwith paid, in the other two, time granted owing to want of funds.
T. Coleman . .	2	1 Plantation labourer against manager of an estate, for the recovery of wages.	Payment ordered.
		1 Journeyman carpenter against master carpenter, for the recovery of wages.	Part paid ; warrant to levy issued for the balance.
Geo. Ball. . .	4	1 Ditto ditto ditto . . .	Disproved and dismissed.
		1 Labourer against a blacksmith, ditto, ditto.	Judgment for the amount claimed.
		2 Plantation labourers against employer, claiming compensation for materials furnished by themselves towards building the houses they had been occupying.	One case wholly untenable, the other settled by employer agreeing to pay the appraised value of the materials alleged to have been supplied by the complainant.
J. Macleod . .	2	1 Comprises 20 labourers as complainants against the foreman of an estate, with whom they had entered into a contract for the performance of a job of work, and for which they claimed payment.	In this and the following case the difference between the parties was adjusted by the representative of the estate agreeing to pay the appraised value of the work actually done, although the contract had not been fulfilled.
		1 The foreman in the preceding case, v. the manager of the property on which the aforesaid job of work was to be done.	

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BRITISH GUIANA Epitome of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints for November 1841—*continued.*

Magistrates.	No. of Cases.	Nature of Offences.	How disposed of.
D. MacLennan .	5	1 Complaint preferred by the owner of an estate against a labouring man whom he had employed as a cattle-keeper, for leaving his service without notice, and without rendering up the cattle. 1 A groom against his master, for three weeks' wages. 3 Journeymen artificers against their employers, to recover wages.	Defendant ordered to collect and deliver over the cattle of which he had charge: further proceedings abandoned. A fortnight's wages awarded, complainant having left without giving notice. One dismissed, complainant not appearing; one withdrawn; one adjusted.
W. H. Ware . .	7	3 Domestic servants against employers, to recover wages. 2 Journeymen against master carpenter, ditto, ditto. 1 Droghersailer against his captain, ditto, ditto. 1 Labourer against his manager, ditto, ditto.	Sums claimed awarded, with suitable compensation for lost time. Ditto ditto ditto. Ditto ditto ditto. Ditto ditto ditto.
W. J. Sandiford .	1	1 Labourer against manager, claiming payment for coffee-picking, at the rate of 3s. 6d. per bag.	2s. 9d. per bag being the ordinary rate, judgment given accordingly.
J. A. Allen . .	8	3 Between carpenters, for the recovery of wages. 1 Domestic servant, v. master, ditto. 1 Fisherman, v. ditto, ditto. 3 Labourers, v. ditto, ditto.	In all, awards made according to evidence.
A. V. R. de Groot	1	1 Complaint against two hill coolies (indented labourers), for absenting themselves from their master's service five and six days.	One fined 2 dollars, the other 3 dollars 33 cents.; or, in default, to six and five days' imprisonment.
C. H. Strutt . .	2	1 Carpenter, v. carpenter, to recover wages. 1 Planter against three labourers, for wantonly destroying canes of the value of 20 dollars.	A fortnight allowed for the claim to be paid. Sentenced to pay a fine of 4 dollars each.
K. Heyland . . [Georgetown District.]	72	68 Journeymen tradesmen, carpenters, coopers, &c. &c. against employers, to recover wages. 1 Wife, v. husband, for maintenance money. 2 Apprentice boys, v. masters, for ill-usage. 1 Master, v. groom, for neglect of duty.	Seventeen dismissed or compromised, and fifty-five variously adjusted.

W. B. WOLSELEY, Circuit Stipendiary Magistrate.

SUMMARY of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints for the Month of November, 1841.

Messrs. Mure, Whinfield, and Brittain report that they had no cases between masters and servants preferred before them during the month of November, and the latter magistrate makes the following observations:—"The labourers are now very generally purchasing land, and erecting their own cottages on it; this at once does away with a former very general cause of difference between them and their employers, who used to charge a very high rate of hire for their houses whenever any of the inhabitants did not perform for the estate what the employer considered a sufficient amount of work: innumerable complaints of sudden dismissals of tenants from their cottages and provision grounds, productive of much ill will and loss to both parties, are also hereby prevented. I am only waiting for the transports to be passed, to make a return of several settlements made, and whole lots of land purchased by labourers in this district; I am happy to say that these purchasers of land do not materially diminish the amount of labour afforded to the neighbouring estates."

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Lyons' Record contains three cases of complaints preferred by journeymen artificers against their employers for the recovery of wages; the claims were undisputed, and in one case immediately paid, with suitable compensation for the time the complainant had lost in attending before the magistrate; in the other two want of funds was pleaded, and reasonable time granted to settle the demands.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Coleman's Record contains two cases likewise for the recovery of wages; the first is preferred by a plantation labourer against the manager of an estate who, in his defence states, that he paid the wages due to the complainant to some person or other

in his behalf, but could not say to whom; judgment was accordingly given in favour of the complainant: the next is a complaint preferred by a journeyman against a master carpenter, claiming 7½ dollars for nine days' labour, 5 dollars paid, and a warrant of distress issued for the balance.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Ball's Record contains four cases, of which the first is a complaint preferred by a journeyman carpenter against a master carpenter for an alleged non-payment of wages, which was disproved, and the case dismissed; the next was preferred by a labourer against a blacksmith, by whom he had been employed to clear and drain a piece of land, and for which he demanded 14½ dollars; the accused party failing to answer the summons, judgment was given in favour of the complainant for the full amount claimed, with an additional dollar as compensation for time lost in preferring and substantiating his complaint: the remaining two cases are complaints preferred by plantation labourers against the manager as representative of the estate on which they had been employed, with the view of obtaining compensation for materials alleged to have been furnished by themselves towards the building of the houses which they occupied on the property. In the first of these cases the complainant claimed not as the individual who had actually supplied the materials in question, but as his widow; it was proved, however, that the parties were never married, but had merely lived together for a time, and as the claim could not be sustained on these grounds, the case was dismissed. In the next case, though equally unprovided for by any legal enactment, a compromise was effected, the master agreeing to pay the labourer the appraised value of the materials to which he laid claim.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Mac Leod's Record contains two cases, both arising out of a contract for a job of work in which the foreman of an estate appears as the ostensible person with whom the contract was made, and is accordingly proceeded against by 20 labourers to obtain payment for the work they had performed; the foreman on his part proceeded against the manager of the property, and it was eventually agreed upon, that although the job, from mismanagement in not keeping out the tide, had not been completed, the work actually done should be appraised, and the money divided amongst the labourers employed.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice MacLennan's Record contains five cases of complaints; the first is preferred by the proprietor of an estate against a labouring man who had been employed as a cattle-keeper, and had left his employer's service without any notice, and without rendering up the cattle that had been placed under his charge; the accused was ordered to collect and deliver over the cattle, upon which further proceedings were abandoned. Of the remaining four cases, one is a complaint preferred by a groom against his master, for the recovery of three weeks' wages; the defence was, that complainant had quitted his master's service without giving notice of his intention to do so; judgment for two weeks' wages. Of the other three cases in this Record, all instituted for the purpose of settling disputed wages, accounts between artificers and their employers, one was dismissed, complainant not appearing, one was withdrawn, and the other settled to the satisfaction of the parties without any adjudication.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Ware's Record contains seven cases for the recovery of wages, of which three are complaints preferred by domestic servants against their employer, the manager of an estate; two by journeymen carpenters against master carpenters; one by a drogher sailor against his captain; and the remaining case by a labourer against his manager, in all of which the sums claimed were awarded with suitable compensation to each complainant for the time lost in preferring and proving their complaints.

Mr. Acting-Stipendiary Justice Sandiford's Record contains one case, a complaint preferred by a plantation labourer against his manager, claiming payment for coffee-picking at the rate of 3s. 6d. per bag; it was proved that 2s. 9d. is the ordinary rate of wages for such a job, and there being no proof that the complainant had been promised more, his claim could not be entertained.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Allen's Record contains eight cases of complaints for the recovery of wages; three of which are between carpenters, one preferred by a domestic servant, and another by a fisherman against their respective masters; and three by labourers, one against a carpenter, another against a store-keeper, and the third against a task-gang manager; in all of which the claims were variously adjusted to the satisfaction of the complainants.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Strutt's Record contains two cases; the first is a complaint preferred by a journeyman carpenter against a master carpenter for the recovery of wages, want of funds pleaded in excuse, and a fortnight allowed for the claim to be paid; the next is a case of destruction of property, in which the manager of an estate charges three labourers with wantonly and maliciously destroying a quantity of canes, of the value of 20 dollars; the accused admitted the charge; and having no excuse to offer, were sentenced to pay a fine of 4 dollars each for the benefit of the master, in terms of sec. 7, cap. 4, of H. M. Order in Council of 7th September, 1838, regulating Contracts of Service.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice De Groot's Record contains but one case; a complaint preferred by the manager of an estate against two of his indentured Hill Coolie labourers, charging them, the one with six, the other with five days' absence from their master's service; as offences of this kind are frequent among the Coolies, and lenity had been tried to no purpose, they were respectively sentenced to pay a fine of 3½ and 2 dollars, or in default of payment to six and five days' imprisonment in the gaol at New Amsterdam.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Huyland's Record for the Georgetown District contains 72 cases; of which 18 were complaints preferred by journeymen tradesmen, carpenters, coopers, bricklayers, boat-builders, and domestic servants, against their respective employers, to obtain payment of wages. One was a complaint preferred by a wife against her husband, both

BRITISH GUIANA labouring people, to obtain maintenance money; two were complaints of apprentice boys against their masters for ill usage; and the remaining case was a complaint preferred by a master against his groom for neglect of duty, and breach of a monthly contract of service; 17 of the number were dismissed or compromised, and 55 variously adjusted according to the evidence.

With reference to the case of Nelly Smart, in Mr. Stipendiary Justice Allen's Record of Complaints for the month of October, in which (the Summary) it was stated that "further explanation would be called for," the magistrate reports, under date 29th November, "the woman, I am glad to say, has not been further molested; she is doing light work on the estate, and everything remains in *statu quo*."

Respectfully submitted by

W. B. WOLSELEY,
Circuit Stipendiary Magistrate.

No. 2.

MONTHLY Report respecting the Hill Coolies in British Guiana, 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Number on Estate.			Absentees.	Number of Days Absent.	Deaths since last Report, Names, and Dates.	Number of Sick on 30th ultimo, and General State of their Health during last Month.	Particulars and Result of any Complaint preferred in the course of the past Month.
	Men.	Women.	Children.					
Belle Vue .	56	2	1	Jowhyssing	Since 7th June, 1839.	None . . .	16 State of health good	The manager complained of Annandoo having again absented himself for a period of 54 days. Arrested by police, and sentenced to be imprisoned, with hard labour, for the term of six days in the gaol of Georgetown.
Wales . .	49	2	3	Narrain . Puckerow . Sunkur . Buldee . Kudobux . Blk. Sabyn Torontee .	1st Aug. 1st Sept. 1841 23rd Sept. 1st Oct. Nov. 15th Nov.	None . . . None . . . None . . . None . . . None . . . None . . . None . . .	14 State of health good	None.
Vridestain .	22	..	..	..	..	1 vis., Bhoris, 10th Nov. of Dysentery.	..	None.
Highbury .	92	7	10	None . .	..	None . . .	11 Sick on 30th; state of health good	None.
Waterloo .	38	..	..	None . .	..	None . . .	3 State of health very good	Munnu and Mangallan for repeated absence from their labour and the estate; the first for 6 and the other for 5 days; condemned to refund to the estate 3 dollars 33 cents, and 2 dollars, in default of which imprisonment in Her Majesty's gaol unless sooner paid. (They paid.)
Anna Regina	41	3	7	..	..	..	3 Sick; state of health good	None.
	298	14	21				47	
	333							

(A true Copy.)

W. B. WOLSELEY, Assist. Gov. Sec.

No. 8.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District B, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Success	15	6	6	7	3	1	..	The emigrants on this estate suffered much, during last month, from intermittent fever; but only one woman died; she was quite worn out from repeated attacks. On Lusignan and Annandale the emigrants continued throughout last month very sickly—chiefly from intermittent fever and general debility; but the mortality was much less than in the preceding month. On the 19th ult., 23 of those on Annandale were sent in the estate's schooner to the Colonial Hospital, but only 9 were admitted; the rest returned by the boat, and appeared improved by the trip; in consequence of which the manager arranged to send them occasionally to town, in the boat, for the benefit of their health: 3 of those received into the Colonial Hospital have already recovered, and returned to Annandale.	The wages of the Portuguese labourers are the same as those of the other estates' labourers. Their lodgings and general treatment are unexceptionable, and no relaxation has taken place in the humane and liberal attention paid to their comfort and treatment since the breaking out of the sickness among them. They have all along, when able to work, been employed about the buildings on the three estates upon which they are located in this district.
Lusignan	14	17	10	7	6	..	1	1	1		
Annandale	21	16	19	6	3	..	1	2	..		

(A true Return.)
 DON. MACLENNAN, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District C (Upper Division), this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Ruimveld	93	51	53	32	9	8	..	1	9	Notwithstanding the number of deaths that have occurred last month, their general health appears now to be good; they have the best medical advice, medicines, and all kinds of nourishment gratis; but it is to be regretted that they do not always avail themselves of these advantages, and in some instances refuse them. This applies to the estates on which deaths have occurred. On the other estates their health is decidedly good.	The adults generally earn from 9 to 12 dollars per month, and the children from 3 to 5 dollars: but they generally work in families, and the father receives the wages, which renders it difficult to ascertain correctly what each individual earns. They are very comfortably lodged, and do not willingly turn out so well to their work in wet, as in fair weather.
Rome and Houston	94	76	102	63	41	30	3	..	5		
Garden of Eden	25	24	38	18	19	13	4	4	2		
Farm	16	11	23	16	5	8	1	1	2		
Providence	18	14	23	16	10	11	..	..	..
Herstelling	2	2	1	2	2	1	..	..	..
Petus Hall	5	3	10	5	3	4	..	..	..
Sage Pond	11	1	..	11	..	..	..	..	..
Vlissingen	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..

THOMAS COLEMAN, Stipendiary Magistrate.

A RETURN of Portuguese Emigrants who have died in District C between 1st November and 1st December 1841.

Location at the time of Death.	Name of Deceased.	Supposed Age.	Name of Vessel in which the Deceased came to the Colony.	Disease of which the deceased Died, or Cause of Death.	Remarks.
Plantation— Ruinveld	Maria de Julia	55	Not known	Measles	These children were not brought under the advice and care of the medical practitioner until the last stage of the disease.
„	Maria de Camasa	2	„	„	
„	Maria Gonzalves de Pique	1	„	„	
„	Louisa de Jesu Fernans	1	„	„	
„	Rosa de Juzas	2	„	„	
„	Francis de Freitas	3	„	„	
„	Maria de Juzas	2	„	„	
„	Antonio de Juzas	3	„	Dysentery	These three children died without having the assistance of a medical practitioner. <i>Vide</i> Coroner's Inquest.
„	Antonio Ferreira	2	„	„	
„	Antonio de Souza	2	„	„	
„	Everisto	2	„	Aptha.	Would not take medicine or nourishment.
„	Antonia Maria	10	„	Diopry.	
„	Manuel de Freitas	30	„	Dysentery.	
„	Maria de Freitas	4	„	Dropsy.	
„	Manuel Gomez	19	„	Fever.	
„	Manuel de Sylva Nemes	23	„	„	
„	Manuel de Souza	9	„	Arasma.	
„	Viciata	1	„	Worms.	
Garden of Eden	Francis Comendanes	28	„	Fever and constipation of bowels.	
„	Catherina de Juzas	39	„	General debility.	
„	Albert Drumoz	50	„	Dysentery.	Would not take medicine or nourishment.
„	Francis Fristum	25	„	Fever and bowel complaint.	
„	Jochima de Juzas	50	„	General debility	
„	Manuel Jochim Drukes	48	„	Nervous fever.	
„	Maria Jochim	48	„	Dysentery.	
„	Antonia Sarving	1	„	Worms.	
„	Albert D'Aspasia	5	„	No apparent disease.	
„	Rosa de Sylvia	48	„	Nestalgia	Would not take medicine or nourishment.
Farm	Catherine Dondrago	34	„	Fever and consequent debility.	
„	Manuel de Lacy	45	„	Ditto ditto	
„	Candalar L'Esevis	2	„	Asthma.	
„	Juliet Gover	9	„	Debility.	

THOMAS COLEMAN, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District A (Upper Division), this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Cane Grove . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	5	The only one remaining on this estate is a girl about 10 years old, named Edouarda de Jesus, the sole survivor of a family of six, who arrived from Madeira little more than two months ago in good health; her father, mother, two brothers, and a sister having fallen victims to the climate. She is rather sickly, and is taken good care of.	Twenty-eight of these people, who, with the girl before mentioned, were the survivors of 44, left the estate on the 8th of November, the most of whom were placed in the public hospital at Georgetown.
Melville . . . .	..	1	9	..	..	..	1	1	1	The Portuguese at Melville, consisting (with the exception of one man) of children, the eldest 15 years old, are almost all sickly.	The lodgings in which they are placed are extremely good, and they are furnished with everything requisite; but, from their state of health, they are of course unable to earn any wages.
Supply	1	1	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	These people, who have been a considerable time in the colony, are healthy.	The man earns about a guilder per day in jobbing at the build-ings; the women 8 dollars per month as washerwomen; and one of the children 2 bits per day: the other is an infant.

GEORGE BALL, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District D, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Vrieden Hoop . . .	20	20	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	Pretty good	The same as per last Return.
Kleyn P	2	1	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	Very good	Idem.
Malgre Tout	7	4	6	..	..	..	..	..	..		The same as last Return.
Schoon Oud	49	43	49	..	..	..	1	4	3	Four of the adults died of yellow fever, one of debility, and the three children all of debility. Great care and attention bestowed on those in hospital; much fever has prevailed.	The same as last Return.
La Grange	28	24	37	..	..	..	1	..	5	On La Grange the adult died of fever, and the children, four of them, died of measles, which has proved unusually fatal, owing, in a great measure, to the difficulty experienced to make them take the necessary medicines. The other child came on the estate in the last stage of marasmus of which it ultimately died. Great care and attention bestowed on the sick.	Wages, the usual amount given to labourers; lodgings in a large and commodious logie, fitted up for them. No hospital on estate, but one is about to be made.
Nismes	22	20	50	..	..	..	1	..	3	On the Nismes the adult died of influenza, and the children of measles; much care and attention bestowed on them.	Located in a large logie, fitted up in compartments. No hospital; the sick attended in their own apartments. Wages as usual.
Versailles	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Very good	As per last return.
Total	131	113	169	..	..	..	3	4	11		

W. J. SANDIFORD, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in Town Division in District C, on Estates, this 1st December 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
La Penitence	80	72	87	50	40	24	2	..	1	Tolerably good. The want of cleanliness among the Portuguese must be injurious. The inattention of parents towards the children is to be lamented.	For a moderate task in field-work from 30 to 40 cents. In the manufacture of sugar 50 cents. Lodgings are good.

R. WYLAND, Stipendiary Magistrate.

A RETURN of Portuguese Emigrants who have Died in Town Division, District C, on Estates, between 1st and 30th November, 1841.

Location at the time of Death.	Name of Deceased.	Supposed Age.	Name of Vessel in which the Deceased came to the Colony.	Disease of which the deceased Died, or Cause of Death.	Remarks.
Plantation—					
La Penitence	Antonio Dusart	32	Not known	Yellow fever	There does not appear to have been anything remarkable attending these deaths. Measles are prevalent, and it is to be feared the mortality among the children will be considerable, as their parents do not pay proper attention to the medical prescriptions, &c.
	Lewis Gama	4	Brigantine <i>Mackis</i> .	Dysentery.	
	Jones Gonsalves	21	Not known	Measles and fever.	

R. WYLAND, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District M, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Eliza and Mary . . .	7	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	All the Portuguese on both these estates are very delicate up to this date. Some of them are still occasionally attacked with fever. None have, as yet, done any work on either estate.	Mr. M'Donald, the Catholic minister is just returned from a visit to these Portuguese reports most favourably of the work performed. I have not been able to visit them since they but my next Report will be from my own inspection.
Skeldon	Twenty-six went together to these two adjoining estates. Fourteen are above accounted for on Eliza and Mary; of the 12 that are on Skeldon I have not yet received a detailed and nominal return as required. None have died on this estate.										

W. J. BRITAIN, Stipendiary Magistrate, District M.

A RETURN of Portuguese Emigrants who have Died in District M, between 31st October and 30th November, 1841.

Location at the time of Death.	Name of Deceased.	Supposed Age.	Name of Vessel in which the Deceased came to the Colony.	Disease of which the deceased Died, or Cause of Death.	Remarks.
Plantation— Eliza and Mary . . .	Rosa de Jesus	5	Not known, but they were brought here in the steamer <i>Lady Flora Hastings</i> , by Mr. A. Macdonald, proprietor Plantation Skeldon.	Prolapsus ani and extreme weakness.	This child was so very weak when she left the plantation that she would not be taken had not been declared a change of her only chance of recovery.
Skeldon	None.				

W. J. BRITAIN, Stipendiary Magistrate, District M.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District E, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Meten Meerzorg . . .	2	6	10	2	4	6	Very good.	All these immigrants are the same wages as are given to other labourers on the estates according to the quantity of the work performed. At Meten Meerzorg the lodgings are good, and there is an infirmary. The only objection to the lodgings at Uitvlugt is that the rooms are too small. At Vrees en Hoop the rooms are better, but there is no hospital. The manager, who is also of Edinburgh, but died there. At Cornelia Ida the lodgings are good, and the ground floors are not damp.
Uitvlugt	25	23	29	25	18	18	1	1	..	Sickly.	
Vrees en Hoop	34	28	32	32	23	6	..	2	..	Sickly.	
Edinburgh	18	12	11	18	9	..	..	..	..	Good as yet.
Cornelia Ida	13	14	23	11	12	6	..	..	..	Good; only 2 in hospital convalescent.
Hague	20	17	52	20	15	28	..	..	..	Very good.
Nouvelle Flandres . .	11	10	14	10	3	7	..	1	..	Have been and continue very sickly.	
Best	9	12	23	6	10	11	1	..	..	Has been good during last month.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District G, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Meten Meerzorg . . .	11	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	Excellent; no deaths and no sickness.	This necessary alteration is about to be made. At Nouvelle Flandres and Best the accommodations are good. No bed

A RETURN of Portuguese Emigrants who have Died in District E, between 1st November and 1st December, 1841.

Location at the time of Death.	Name of Deceased.	Supposed Age.	Name of Vessel in which the Deceased came to the Colony.	Disease of which the deceased Died, or Cause of Death.	Remarks.
Plantation—					
Uitvlugt	Francisco Vieyra . . .	40	Unknown .	Fever.	With exception of Vrees en Hoop all the estates have good hospitals and attentive nurses. The chief cause of death among these immigrants is the immoderate indulgence in fruits, frequently unripe, and in the sugar-cane.
„	Maria de Jesus . . .	18	„ .	Congestive fever (in cold stage of intermittent).	
Vrees en Hoop . .	Isabella de Siloe. . .	34	„ .	General debility.	
„	Maria Francisca . . .	32	„ .	Disease unknown.	
Nouvelle Flandres .	Antonia Maria . . .	22	„ .	Chronic dysentery, with which she arrived.	
Best	Manoel Terceira. . .	40	„ .	Fever. Moribund in his cottage before manager was informed of his illness. Doctor immediately called to see him. Lived only a few hours after.	

J. O. LOCKHART MURE, S. J. P., District E.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District I, County Berbice, 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation Profit is the only estate in this district where Portuguese emigrants are located.	12	14	3	12	13	3	..	1	..	Yet sickly.	Good lodgings, rent free, wages 33½ cents. for 7½ hours' labour, which can be performed in 4 hours' steady work. These people are well taken care of, and every attention paid to their comforts. The locality is most salubrious, and, when a little more seasoned to the climate, there is every probability of their doing well.

A. VAN RYCK DE GROOT, S. J. P.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District G, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Ondernuming . . .	14	10	19	14	10	8	..	..	1	Convalescent, and all doing a little work. The infant died from debility.	The wages, as usual, from 4 to 10 dollars per month. Lodgings very good; and when I asked them if they were happy, answered, very happy now they were well.
Spring Garden . .	8	3	1	8	2	..	..	..	..	Has been very good. I think this is to be accounted for. These people had been some months in the colony previous to their location on this estate.	The houses are very good. Wages, on an average earned 8 dollars per month; and living myself on this estate, I have had an opportunity of more closely observing their cheerful and happy situation.

A. M. LYONS, S. M., District G.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District G, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Good Intent . . .	4	1	10	..	1	1	1	..	..	These labourers are still sickly. The man that died last month was from protracted debility.	The wages when they are at work are at the same rate as other field labourers, from 4 to 8 dollars per month, with allowances of salt fish, rice, &c. They are well lodged in a commodious house formerly occupied by the Rev. Mr. Watt, parish of St. Mark's, erected on brick pillars seven feet high, with a gallery in front.
Aurora	13	14	19	2	..	4	1	2	6	Very sickly the last month. The loss of labour that has occurred has proceeded from two causes; the first, from being in too debilitated a state; secondly, from not getting weekly allowance independent of their wages; which allowance for the first month, including various articles given to them, amounted to 303 dollars. Three men and two women have left the estate.	The wages earned in jobbing work has been as high as 67 cents per day, and the field work the same as the other labourers, from 4 to 10 dollars per month. The houses are all new, and are excellent.

A. M. LYONS, S. M., District G.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District F, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Meerzorg	9	9	7	9	7	6	..	..	..	The Portuguese upon this estate are at present enjoying very good health.	These emigrants are now located in a good cottage, and are provided with beds, tables, and benches. When at work their monthly wages average 50 cents. per diem.
Caledonia	11	11	16	10	8	4	..	..	..	These emigrants are enjoying good health. 1 man, 3 women, and 3 children, sick on the 1st December, 1841.	These people are accommodated in good cottages, supplied with beds, tables, and benches, and, when at work, frequently earn 16 dollars per month.
New Bendorff . . .	20	11	10	8	5	2	2	2	3	These emigrants are very sickly. 5 men, 3 women, and 1 child, are at present in a dangerous state.	These Portuguese are accommodated in good cottages, provided with beds. Those that are at work frequently earn a dollar a day. The great mortality upon this estate, as well as the sickness, is partly attributable to an over anxiety in the labourer to work for more than his strength would permit. The want of a good hospital has also been much felt by these emigrants.
Maria Joanna . . .	9	8	22	9	5	10	..	..	..	The emigrants upon this estate are healthy. 3 women sick on 1st December.	These Portuguese, who have lately located themselves upon this estate, are accommodated in good cottages. The manager, at the stipendiary magistrate's request, is making beds, tables, and benches, for them. When at work they earn from 2 guilders to a dollar a day.
Success	5	4	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	1 man, 1 woman, and 1 child, are sick; the rest are healthy.	These emigrants are accommodated in a very good cottage, supplied with beds, tables, and benches. The wages vary from 2 guilders to 1 dollar per diem.
Retrieve	11	6	17	11	5	8	..	..	2	The emigrants upon this estate are healthy.	Part of these emigrants are accommodated in a cottage, and part in the hospital. A cottage for the reception of those now in hospital will be ready in a few days. These people arrived upon this estate on the 28th November last.

Monthly Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District F, &c.—continued.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Zelandia	10	10	3	10	8	..	1	..	..	These emigrants are at present healthy.	The accommodation upon this estate is good. The wages they receive vary from 10 to 12 dollars a month.
Endeavour	9	9	13	4	2	2	..	1	3	These emigrants are very sickly. 5 men, 6 women, and 6 children are in a dangerous state.	These emigrants are accommodated in indifferent cottages, supplied with beds, tables, and benches. Those that are at work earn from 10 to 12 dollars per month.
Sarah	7	6	12	4	2	4	..	..	..	A few of these emigrants have been sickly during the month of November, but are at present convalescent. 3 men, 1 woman, and 3 children sick on 1st December, 1841.	These people are accommodated in good cottages, supplied with beds, tables, and benches. When at work they earn from 2 guilders to a dollar a day
Arthurville	3	2	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	These emigrants are healthy.	These emigrants are accommodated in an hospital. They express themselves satisfied with their location. Their wages vary from 10 to 14 dollars per month.
Belle Plaine	10	9	6	4	4	1	..	1	..	These emigrants are at present very sickly. 6 men, 6 women, and 1 child, are in a dangerous state.	The accommodation upon this estate is very good. Those that are at work earn from 10 to 12 dollars per month.
Friendship	3	3	4	3	..	1	..	..	..	3 women sick upon this estate; the rest are healthy.	These emigrants are accommodated in rooms below the overseer's house. Those at work earn from 2 guilders to a dollar per day.
Bienheim	18	12	29	17	8	10	..	..	..	These emigrants are very healthy. 1 sick on 1st December, 1841.	These people are located in good cottages, supplied with beds, tables, and benches. They earn from 10 bits to 1 dollar per diem.
Elizabeth Ann . . .	20	11	8	19	7	2	..	..	1	These emigrants have been very sickly during the past month. 4 are at present in a dangerous state.	The accommodation upon this estate is very indifferent. The houses are supplied with a bedstead only. The manager of the estate informed the stipendiary magistrate that the estate could not afford to provide them with either tables, benches, or any other minor comforts. The stipendiary magistrate directed the interpreter to inform these emigrants that he would get employment for them where better accommodation would be procured. They informed the stipendiary magistrate, that as long as they continued to receive their wages regularly, they would be satisfied with their present location. The wages they receive vary from 12 to 14 dollars a month.

(Signed)

WALTER HOWARD WARE, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District H, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Taymouth Manor	23	14	8	16	5	..	..	..	..	Pretty good.	Men about buildings earn about 6 bits, women 4, children 2 to 3. All lodged in new cottages.
Affiance	7	6	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	Indifferent	Wages same as above. Little work has been done by these people (four excepted) during last month. All are about to quit the estate for change of air, and from other motives. No complaint made by any of them.
Mainstay	8	8	11	4	4	1	..	1	..	Middling	Paid as elsewhere. Lodged in estate's hospital by their own choice, 1 man and his wife excepted, who are in cottages.
Anna Regina	4	3	9	4	..	3	..	1	..	Ditto	Wages as above. All lodged in estate's hospital. 2 or 3 bedsteads; no tables or benches.
Richmond	14	14	21	9	7	11	..	..	1	Pretty good.	Paid as above. Lodged in hospital out-buildings and cottages. All lodged in cottages, 2 excepted.
La Belle Alliance	17	6	11	5	3	3	1	1	..	Ditto	Wages as elsewhere.
Lima	9	7	8	5	4	2	..	..	..	Good	Lodged in cottages, apparently comfortable.
Sparta	4	3	4	4	3	2	..	..	..	Very good	Lodged in a large cottage.
Windsor Castle	21	25	21	7	..	..	2	..	1	Indifferent	All in cottages, lower floors not boarded. Tables, benches, and bedsteads promised.
Better Success	9	11	22	9	8	10	..	..	..	Good	Provisions found. Wages same as other people of the estate. Four families lodged in negro houses, remainder in three rooms of the hospital.

A RETURN of Portuguese Emigrants who have Died in District H, between 1st and 30th November, 1841.

Location at the Time of Death.	Name of Deceased.	Supposed Age.	Name of Vessel in which the Deceased came to the Colony.	Disease of which the deceased Died, or Cause of Death.	Remarks.
Plantation— La Belle Alliance	Maria Rosa	20	Not known	Fit during convalescence from fever.	
„ „ „ „	Antonio Suez	15	„	Dropsy subsequent to fever.	
Windsor Castle	Juan Marcus	20	„	Fever.	
„ „ „ „	Matthias	35	„	„ and Debility.	
„ „ „ „	Maria Marcus	9	„	„ „	
Richmond	Jacinto	9	William Tell (American Ship.)	„ „	
Mainstay	Joakina	22	Unknown .	Childbed.	
Anna Regina	Felicia de Jesus	20	„	Dropsy.	

(Signed) J. A. ALLEN, Stipendiary Magistrate.

No. 4.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in Town Division, District C (on Estates), this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Thomas	14	7	6	14	6	..	..	..	..	Very good	40 to 48 cents for a task in the fields. 56 cents per day when employed in the manufacture of sugar. Lodgings good.
Belair	7	4	2	7	4	..	..	..	..	Good. The state of health of the two children noticed in last month's return has improved.	Nearly as above both with respect to wages and lodging.

K. HEYLAND, S. M.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District B, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Montrose	25	4	1	25	4	Very good	All these emigrants continue to enjoy excellent health and to give great satisfaction to their employers. They all perform the ordinary tasks, and, in some cases, extra labour, and are paid in proportion to the quantity of work done. In course of last month 16 men, 4 women, and 4 children, removed themselves from plantation Cumings Lodge to other estates, the greater part of them to plantation Chatteau-Margo. No influence whatever appears to have been used by any party to induce them to make this change; the reason they assigned for it themselves was, "that they could perform the task in Chatteau-Margo with more ease, and in a shorter time than they could do on Cumings Lodge." With this exception, the Sierra Leone emigrants have remained very steadily on the estates upon which they were originally located in this district.
Le Resouvenir	7	3	1	7	3	1	..	..	..	Ditto.
Chatteau-Margo	19	8	4	19	7	..	..	..	..	Ditto.
Cumings Lodge	1	3	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	Ditto.
Turkeyen	13	7	2	13	7	..	..	..	..	Ditto.
Industry	1	1	3	1	1	2	..	..	..	Ditto.
Ogle	21	8	5	21	6	2		

(A true Return.)
DON. MACLENNAN, S. M.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District C (Upper Division), this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Peter's Hall	13	5	3	13	5	1	..	..	..	On both these estates these emigrants enjoy very good health and appear happy and contented.	They earn from one-third to half a dollar per day for an easy day's labour; they are very comfortably lodged, agree very well with the other labourers on the estate, and make no complaints.
Rome and Houston	4	1	..	..	4	1	..	..	..

THOS. COLEMAN, S. M.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District A (Lower Section), this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Euimore	13	3	2	13	..	..	..	..	..	Very good	Earn from 1 guilder to 6 bitts, and work very steadily. Has earned during past month 6 bitts per day.
Greenfield	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	Very good	

J. MACLEOD, S. M.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District A (Upper Division), this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Helena	14	1	3	14	1	2	..	..	..	Very good	The wages of the men are 50 cents per diem; that of the women a guilder; and of the children 2 litta. They are extremely well lodged, and have good provision grounds.

GEORGE BALL, S. M.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District F, this 1st December 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Bank Hall	1	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	These emigrants are enjoying excellent health.	These emigrants have a cottage, supplied with beds, bedding, tables, and benches. Their monthly wages generally amount to 14 dollars.
Maryville	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	These emigrants are very healthy.	These people are employed on board the estate's schooner. They receive 12 dollars a month, and are found in provisions.

WALTER HOWARD WARE, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District G, this 1st December 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Hoff Van Aurist	7	3	11	7	3	10	..	..	..	Very good; a few have complained a little. At present all in good health.	From 3 to 7 dollars per month; and it being their first month, have received allowances. With regard to houses, they have been located with the estate's people at present, by their own wish. They speak very little English.
Batseba's Lust	6	6	8	6	4	7	..	..	..	The general state of their health is very good.	Wages from 4 to 6 dollars per month, located in the new cottages; and the children with the head people of the estate. Not one of these Africans can speak a word of English, and the want of a proper person to act as interpreter is very much required.
Huist Dieren	10	5	4	7	4	4	..	..	..	Very good; a few complained a little. At present all in fine health.	From 3 to 7 dollars per month, with allowances, located with the estate's people. These Africans speak very little English, and also require an interpreter.

A. M. LYONS, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District G, this 1st December 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Soplinberg . . .	14	5	9	12	..	3	1	..	..	Healthy. The man that died came on the estate in a declining state of health; was attended by three medical men, and died from debility, arising from a white swelling in the leg.	Men, on the average, earn 8 dollars per month; children, 4 dollars; besides the usual allowance (on this estate) of 2 lbs. of salt-fish, and 7 lbs. of rice, weekly. The women have retired from field labour. The houses are very good, equal to any in the colony.
Hamburgh . . .	19	1	..	19	1	..	..	..	..	Their health is very good . .	Wages, from 11 to 13 dollars per month, with a weekly allowance of 3 lbs. of salt-fish, and 10 lbs. of rice. Their houses are excellent, quite new; the only thing they told me was wanting, as they were very happy, not having their wives with them. This, of course, I could not supply.

A. M. LYONS, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District H, this 1st December 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Reliance	14	2	1	10	2	..	..	..	..	Very good	Well lodged in cottages; earn about 5 bits daily. One man joined last month, from Lima.
Lima	13	7	2	11	4	..	..	..	..	Ditto	Lodged in cottages; men earn about 2 dollars weekly, and women 2 dollars. One man left for Reliance. One man, one woman, and one child, left for Walton Hall.
Walton Hall . . .	7	4	1	7	4	..	..	..	..	Ditto	Lodged partly in cottages, partly in sick-house; average amount of wages earned, when at work, 5 bits daily. One man, one woman, one child, joined from Lima last month.

JA. ALLEN, Stipendiary Magistrate.

No. 5.

MONTHLY Return of Liberated Africans in District C, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Peter's Hall . . .	2	9	10	2	8	9	..	..	..	These people enjoy very good health, and seem perfectly contented and happy.	They earn from one-third to half a dollar per diem, and are exceedingly well lodged: they have made no complaints to me whatever, and agree very well with the other people on the estate.

THOMAS COLEMAN, S. J. P.

MONTHLY Return of Captured Africans in District L, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Hanover	4	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	Good.	Not yet put to work. Lodgings very good. Scotch church and school in the immediate neighbourhood. Not yet put to work. Lodgings very good. A school on the estate, under the management of Mr. Inglis. Not yet put to work. Lodgings very good. A school on the estate, under Mr. William Boul- lers.
Ma Rétraite	3	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	Good.	
Mara	7	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	Good.	
These Africans arrived in the <i>Lady Rowena</i> from Rio Janeiro, and were located on the estates on the 2nd of November, 1841. They are all quite young people; Penelope Fullerton and Peterella Fullerton of Ma Rétraite are the oldest; the first named 26 years, and the last 30 years of age; the remainder are from about 20 years and under.											

CHARLES WHINFIELD, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Captured Africans in District K, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Blairmount	4	4	7	4	4	6	Good.	The Africans located upon estates in my district are comfortably housed and are well cared for, and are paid the same wages as the other labourers, in proportion to the quantity of work performed by them. Every day tends to confirm me in my opinion that these are the people best adapted to the climate, &c. of British Guiana.
Balthyock	4	3	10	4	3	10	..	..	..	Good.
Providence	8	9	18	8	9	13	..	..	..	Good.
Everton	6	4	10	6	4	10	..	..	..	Good.
Friends	5	5	32	5	5	32	..	..	..	Good.
New Forest	1	3	15	1	3	15	..	..	..	Good.

(A true Return).

Witness my hand this 1st December, 1841,

C. H. STUART, Stipendiary Magistrate.

A RETURN of Captured Africans who have Died in District K, between 1st November and 1st December, 1841.

Location at the time of Death.	Name of Deceased.	Supposed Age.	Name of Vessel in which the Deceased came to the Colony.	Disease of which the deceased Died, or Cause of Death.	Remarks.
Plantation— New Forest . . .	Diana	12	The steamer <i>Venezuela</i> from Rio Janeiro.	Inward wasting, or atrophy.	Every attention was paid to this girl, but the medical attendant foresaw for some days that she could not recover.

(A true Report).

Witness my hand this 1st December, 1841.

C. H. STRUTT, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Captured Africans in District M, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Prospect	1	1	8	1	1	8	The general state of their health is good.	Their lodging is good; their comforts are attended to; and wages are paid to them in the same ratio as to the other estates' labourers.
Smithson's Place . .	2	3	6	2	3	5	One infant. Good.	One man came this month from another estate.
Cane-field	9	..	13	9	..	13	..	..	1	Good.
Ron Hall	4	4	14	4	4	14	..	..	..	Good.
Colastone Hall ..	3	4	4	3	4	4	..	..	..	Good.
Reliance	2	..	8	2	..	8	Good.	All these Africans appear to be very happy, and give great satisfaction to their employers on the different estates.
Albion . . . . .	..	..	10	..	..	9	..	..	..	One child sickly. Good.
Mary's Hope . . .	3	3	14	3	3	13	..	..	..	One infant. Good.
Eliza and Mary . .	5	5	10	5	4	9	..	..	1	One man and one woman arrived this month sickly. Good.
Skeldon	7	5	8	7	5	8	..	..	1	Good.

Difference in this Month's Return from the last Month's.

Location.	Men.	Women.	Children.
Plantation— Increase.			
Albion . . . . .	..	..	10
Cane-field	1	..	..
Eliza and Mary . .	2	2	6
Skeldon	4	1	5
Decrease.			
Cane-field . . . .	..	..	1

W. J. BRITTAIN, Stipendiary Magistrate, District M.

A RETURN of Captured Africans who have Died in District M, between 1st November and 1st December, 1841.

Location at the time of Death.	Name of Deceased.	Supposed Age.	Name of Vessel in which the Deceased came to the Colony.	Disease of which the Deceased Died, or Cause of Death.	Remarks.
Plantation— Cane-field	Joseph Lake	9	<i>Duas Favierra</i>	He was ailing ever since his arrival in June last, supposed by the doctor to be of a chronic affection of the chest.	The utmost care was taken of the boy from the day of his arrival until his death.
Skeldon	Quamina Redwar	12	<i>The Lady Rowena.</i>	Drowned	An inquest was held on the body of the child, and a verdict of manslaughter was returned. The party is now in jail awaiting his trial.

W. J. BRITTAIN, Stipendiary Magistrate, District M.

MONTHLY Return of Captured Africans in District B, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Boys.	Girls.	Men.	Boys.	Girls.	Men.	Boys.	Girls.		
Plantation— Cuming's Lodge Success . . . . .	.. 1	6 12	14 6	.. 1	6 11	7 3	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	Very good Ditto.	On Cuming's Lodge the captured Africans are lodged with old estate's people, and are very kindly treated. They are supplied with food by the proprietor. On Success, only a few of them have, as yet, been lodged with the estate people, the rest are lodged in two apartments in the sick-house, and supplied with food, &c., and with a male and female attendant, by the estate. On both estates they do light work about the buildings; but no task, or any particular quantity of work is required of them, and the value of such labour as they perform is applied in buying clothes for them. Their health is good, and they appear cheerful, and in excellent spirits.

(A true Return).

DON. MACLENNAN, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Captured Africans in District H, this 1st December 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Reliance	5	5	9	5	..	8	..	..	..	Good	These people get the same wages as others on the estate, according to the work performed. The women were not at work on the 1st December, in consequence of the inclemency of the weather. Five men, one woman, and her four children, are lodged in cottages, the rest are divided amongst the most respectable families on the estate, the heads of which receive the wages and expend it for the benefit of those concerned. The Africans were found in provisions during the 1st month (November). Clothing was issued to them when they arrived on the estate, for which no charge will be made. Grounds will be allotted when they are prepared to cultivate them.
Richmond	7	4	9	7	2	8	..	..	..	Good	These Africans are lodged as at Reliance, and paid in like manner. The only relationship among them is two brothers and one woman with her child. Clothing has been issued, which is to be paid for hereafter by instalments. Provision grounds, already planted, have been given. Food was given gratis for the month of November. The conduct of the captured Africans on Richmond and Reliance is represented as industrious and orderly.

J. A. ALLEN, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Captured Africans in District I, County Berbice, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Cotton-Tree	9	6	3	9	6	2	..	..	..	Very good	Good lodgings, fed and clothed, and paid wages in proportion to work done.
Woodley Park	2	..	10	2	..	4	..	..	..	Ditto	Idem, fed and clothed, and paid wages in proportion to work done. These people are as happy as can be.
	11	6	13	11	6	6					

A. VAN RYCK DE GROOT, Stip. Mag.

MONTHLY Return of Rio Janeiro Emigrants in District D, this 1st December, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Vrieden Hoop. . . .	17	9	7	..	..	..	..	1	..	Generally good. The woman died from debility, being ill when landed from the ship.	The lodgings for these Africans are an extensive and lately erected range of cottages capable of containing fifty people. A book is kept as a register of the days on which they work (which is very continuous and satisfactory), and the usual allowance given to other labourers will be paid to them, deducting a fair sum for their diet, which is, and has been given to them at the expense of the proprietors hitherto. They appear happy and contented, and have been chiefly employed about the buildings. Great care and attention has been shewn to them.

W. J. SANDIFORD, Stip. Mag.

Sir,

Canje Creek, 29th November, 1841.

I HEREWITH enclose the returns of captured Africans, which I should have transmitted early in this month, had I not been delayed in obtaining them by the very unexpected impediments I met with in travelling through the Courentyne quarter of this district, both from the very bad condition of the roads, and the impossibility at times of obtaining the means of travelling by sea. I was from these causes three weeks later in returning to the Canje than I had every reason to calculate upon, even taking into account the time employed in taking the census of population.

I shall, however, take due care that no such delays shall ever in future occur, or that His Excellency shall have cause to complain of my Returns not being forwarded in due time.

The Returns of this month will be forwarded in a few days.

I have, &c.

W. J. BRITAIN, S.J.P.

(A true Copy.)
W. B. WOLSELEY, Assistant Government Secretary.

MONTHLY Return of Captured Africans in District M, this 1st November, 1841.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Prospect	1	1	8	1	1	8	..	..	..	General state of health good.	Their lodging is good. Their comforts are attended to. Wages paid to them for whatever work they do in the same ratio as to the other labourers.
Smithson's Place . . .	2	3	6	2	3	5	..	..	..	One is an infant.	All these Africans, chiefly children, are remarkably healthy. They appear to be happy, and cheerfully perform any work which they are put to.
Cane-field	8	..	14	8	..	14	..	..	..
Rose Hall	4	4	14	4	4	14	..	..	..
Reliance	2	..	8	2	..	8	..	..	..
Goldston Hall	3	4	4	3	4	4	..	..	..
Mary's Hope	3	3	14	3	3	13	..	..	..	One Infant.	
Eliza and Mary	3	3	5	3	3	5	..	..	..
Skeldon	3	4	3	3	4	3	..	..	..

W. J. BRITAIN, Stipendiary Magistrate, District M.

BRITISH GUIANA A RETURN of Captured Africans who have Died in District M., between 11th May and 1st Nov., 1841.

Plantation—
Prospect.
Smithson's Place.
Canefield.
Rose Hall.

Reliance.
Goldston Hall.
Mary's Hope.
Eliza and Mary.
Skeldon.

None of the Captured Africans, located on any of these estates, in this District, have died between 11th May and 1st November, 1841.

W. J. BRITTAIN, Stipendiary Magistrate, District M.

(No. 8.)

No. 67.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, Jan. 8, 1842.

No. 67.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the return of produce shipped from this Colony in the last quarter of 1841, in which there is a small increase; but, on the whole year, there is a falling off to the amount of 6,509 hogsheads, as per general return for the year 1841.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

RETURN of the Quantity of Colonial Produce Exported from this Colony in the Year 1841, as compared with the Year 1840.

	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.	Coffee.	Cotton.
	Hogsheads.	Puncheons.	Casks.	Pounds.	Bales.
Demerara and Essequibo . 1840	33,686	12,605	14,103	1,531,350	271
Berbice ,,	7,022	2,594	1,896	1,806,750	60
	40,708	15,199	15,999	3,338,100	331
Demerara and Essequibo . 1841	27,804	9,102	13,952	568,920	160
Berbice ,,	6,395	2,016	2,227	519,750	10
	34,199	11,118	16,179	1,088,670	170
Increase. . .	..	..	180	..	..
Decrease . .	6,509	4,081	..	2,249,430	161

Custom House, Demerara,
Jan. 6, 1842.

CHAS. ROBINSON, Collector.

Colonial Produce Shipped from this Colony in the 4th Quarter of 1841, as compared with the Quantity of the corresponding Quarter of 1840.

	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.	Coffee.	Cotton.
	Hogsheads.	Puncheons.	Casks.	Pounds.	Bales.
Demerara, 4th Quarter . . 1840	10,690	2,734	5,640	193,950	56
Berbice ,,	2,464	633	1,229	713,850	Nil.
	13,154	3,367	6,869	907,800	56
Demerara, 4th Quarter . . 1841	11,552	3,066	4,809	177,450	49
Berbice ,,	1,362	647	688	72,900	Nil.
	13,414	3,713	5,497	250,350	49
Increase. . .	260	346	..	..	..
Decrease . .	..	..	1,372	657,450	7

(No. 13.)

No. 68.

BRITISH GUIANA

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, Jan. 20th, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Stipendiary Magistrates' returns, with summary by Mr. Wolseley, for the month of December, 1841; they are proofs of the harmony then existing between labourers and their employers.

No. 68.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

Enclosure in No. 68.

Errata of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints for December, 1841.

Encl. in No. 68.

Magistrates.	Number of Cases.	Nature of Offences.	How Disposed of.
J. Macleod . .	..	. . .	. . .
T. Coleman . .	..	. . .	. . .
J. O. L. Mure . .	..	. . .	. . .
A. V. R. de Groot . .	..	. . .	. . .
C. R. Whinfield . .	..	. . .	. . .
W. J. Brittain . .	..	. . .	. . .
A. M. Lyons . .	4	2 Complaints preferred by journeymen carpenters against master carpenters, to obtain payment for work performed.	Claims admitted and payment made.
		1 Wood-cutter, v. wood-cutter, for the hire of a boat.	Complainant too ill to prosecute; defendant not to be found.
		1 Apprentice carpenter-boy, v. his master, for threatening to desert him.	Amicably settled.
J. A. Allen	9	6 Complaints between carpenters and masons, for the recovery of wages.	Readily adjusted.
		1 Boatman, v. boat-captain, ditto, ditto.	
		1 Washerwoman, v. store-keeper, ditto, ditto.	
		1 Labourer, v. task-gang-manager, ditto, ditto.	
G. Ball . . .	5	4 Plantation-labourers against manager of estate, for the recovery of wages.	3 Amicably adjusted; 1 complainant did not appear.
		1 Between carpenters, for the adjustment of an account.	Withdrawn.
D. Maclellan . .	4	2 Plantation-labourers against manager, for the recovery of wages.	Claims incorrectly stated; amended; and then, judgment for complainants.
		1 Journeyman bricklayer against master bricklayer, ditto, ditto.	Account adjusted and settled.
		1 Journeyman carpenter against master carpenter, ditto, ditto.	Ditto ditto.
W. H. Ware . .	7	3 Plantation-labourers against managers of estates, for the recovery of wages.	Judgment for the amounts claimed, with suitable compensation for lost time.
		1 Clergyman, v. domestic servant, for a breach of contract of service.	Sentenced to pay a fine of 8 dollars; in default, to ten days' imprisonment.
		3 Journeymen, v. master carpenters, for the recovery of wages.	Payment ordered, with suitable compensation for lost time.
W. J. Sandiford . .	4	3 Plantation-labourers against managers, for the recovery of wages.	Claims adjusted, and awards made accordingly.
		1 Journeyman against master carpenter, to obtain payment for work.	Defects to be remedied, and then work to be paid for.
C. H. Strutt . .	2	1 Carpenter, v. painter, ditto, ditto.	Claim admitted, and paid.
		1 Manager of an estate against 2 labourers, for cruelly burning a mule.	Sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment.
J. O. L. Mure . . (November.)	2	1 Complaint preferred by 5 country labourers against a fellow-labourer, to whom they had hired themselves as a task-gang, to obtain payment for work performed.	Judgment in favour of complainants, and warrant issued to levy upon the property of the accused.
		1 Between 2 carpenters, for an adjustment of accounts.	But partially settled, owing to the loss of a "Good," or note of hand.
K. Heyland . .	80	Disputed wages accounts between master and journeymen artificers, domestics and their employers, boatmen, and street-porters.	21 Dismissed; 1 amicably settled; 1 discharged, with reprimand; 1 withdrawn; 56, judgment for complainants.

BRITISH GUIANA SUMMARY of the Stipendiary Magistrates' Records of Complaints for the Month of December, 1841.

Messrs. Stipendiary Justices Macleod, Coleman, Mure, De Groot, Whinfield, and Brittain, report to have had no complaints between masters and servants preferred before them in the month of December.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Lyons' record contains 4 cases; 2 are complaints preferred by journeymen carpenters against master carpenters, to obtain payment for work performed; in both of which the claims were admitted, and payment made: 1 is a claim preferred by one wood-cutter against another, for the hire of a boat; the complainant being too ill to appear before the magistrate, and the defendant not to be found, the case stands over. The last is a complaint preferred by an apprentice carpenter-boy, charging his master with "deserting him, and saying he had no further use for him;" which was amicably settled.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Allen's record contains 9 cases of complaints for the recovery of wages, though not one between planter and labourer. In 6 of the cases the complainants and defendants are carpenters and masons; in 1, boatman and boat-captain; in another, a washerwoman against a storekeeper; and, in the remaining case, a labourer against a task-gang-manager. In all of which the claims were settled without difficulty; the magistrate making the following note in his record:—"A memorandum, addressed to parties complained of, generally procures a settlement of the claim, without the necessity of ulterior proceedings."

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Ball's record contains 5 cases, which are likewise for the recovery of wages. In 4 the complainants were plantation-labourers, and the defendant the manager of the estate on which they were employed; 3 were amicably adjusted through the intervention of the magistrate, without any other proceedings; and, in the fourth, the complainant did not appear to follow up his demand. The last case is between two carpenters, which was withdrawn at the request of the complainant. The magistrate remarks, at the foot of this record, that he had been applied to by two labourers to obtain compensation for them for houses they had built on the estate to which they had formerly been attached; these cases remain over for investigation.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Maclellan's record contains 4 cases; of which 2 are complaints preferred by plantation-labourers against their manager; 1 by a journeyman bricklayer against a master bricklayer; and the other by a journeyman carpenter against a master carpenter; all for the recovery of wages. In the first case the claim was proved to be incorrect, and judgment given for the sum actually due; in the second, the amount claimed was sent to the complainant by the constable who served the summons upon the party in default; and, in the other 2 cases, accounts were adjusted, and awards made accordingly.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Ware's record contains 7 cases; in 3 of which the complainants were plantation-labourers charging their employers with non-payment of wages. In all these cases judgment was given for the amounts claimed, with suitable compensation for the time lost in attending before the magistrate. 1 is a complaint preferred by a clergyman against a domestic servant for a breach of contract of service, which resulted in the accused being sent to gaol for ten days, in default of the payment of a penalty of 8 dollars, or one month's wages. In the remaining 3 cases, for the recovery of wages between journeymen and master carpenters, the amounts claimed were ordered to be paid, and suitable compensation awarded to the plaintiffs for the time lost in preferring their complaints.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Sandiford's record contains 4 cases for the recovery of wages; 3 of which are complaints preferred by plantation-labourers against their employers. In 2, judgment was given for the amounts claimed; in the other, the complainant made his appearance "quite drunk," and failed to prove that there was more than one day's labour owing to him; which was forthwith paid by his employer. The remaining case was a complaint preferred by a journeyman carpenter against a master carpenter, in which it was proved that the work for which payment was claimed had not been executed in a proper manner; the complainant was consequently recommended to remedy the defects, the defendant having no other objection against the claim.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Strutt's record contains 2 cases; the first is a complaint preferred by a carpenter against a painter, to obtain payment for work performed; the claim was admitted, and the amount paid into court. The second is a complaint preferred by the manager of an estate against two labourers, charging them with having wantonly, cruelly, and maliciously, burnt a mule entrusted to their care, by setting fire to a bundle of dry plantain-leaves, and holding it under the mule's belly, whereby the animal was seriously burnt, and, in all probability, will not survive the injury. The accused had no other excuse to make, than that the mule was obstinate, and that they had adopted the same method of coercion as they had seen practised in the time of slavery by the foreman of the estate. They were each sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment, with hard labour, in New Amsterdam gaol.

Mr. Stipendiary Justice Mure's record, for the month of November, which was not transmitted in time to be forwarded with the other records, owing to delay in carrying into effect a levy-warrant, contains 2 cases of complaints for the recovery of wages. In the first, the plaintiffs were country labourers, who had hired themselves to another labourer to work under him, as a task or jobbing-gang. The employer admitted their claims, but said he had no money to pay them. Whereupon a warrant to levy upon his property was issued; upon which no return has as yet been made by the police. The other complaint was between two carpenters, which was but partly adjusted, owing to the loss of a "Good," of money value, on

master and journeymen artificers, domestic servants and their employers, boatmen and street-porters; in no instance presenting anything unusual, or calling for observation. Of the 80 cases, 21 were dismissed; 1 amicably settled; 1 discharged, with reprimand; 1 withdrawn; and in 56 judgment was given for the complainants.

Respectfully submitted by
W. B. WOLSELEY, Circuit Stipendiary Magistrate.

(No. 14.)

No. 69.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, January 20th, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a letter from Stipendiary Magistrate MacLennan, reporting the purchase of Plantation Plaisance, on the east sea-coast, Demerara, about five or six miles distant from George Town, by sixty-five labourers, for the sum of thirty-nine thousand dollars, of which fifteen thousand have been paid down. The remainder is to be paid by instalments of 6, 12, and 18 months' date.

Permit me to congratulate your Lordship on this additional proof of the progressive advance in the condition of the lately emancipated labourers of British Guiana.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

No. 69.

Enclosure in No. 69.

Stipendiary Magistrates' Office, District B,
East Coast, 18th January, 1842.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the plantation estate "Plaisance" on this coast has been purchased from Mr. Christiani, by labourers, for 39,000 dollars, including dwelling-house and all other buildings, and also including three mules, three carts and harness, two horses, and ten head of black cattle. The sum of 15,000 dollars has been paid down, and the balance of 24,000 dollars is payable by three equal instalments, at 6, 12, and 18 months from the date of sale; the two last instalments to bear interest, it being optional to the purchasers to anticipate said terms of payment to save the interest.

Only 65 persons have as yet joined in the purchase; that is, that have contributed to the sum already paid, but 100 is the number fixed upon among themselves—thereby dividing the interest in the estate into 100 shares of 390 dollars each; and a clause binding the seller to grant a transport in favour of subscribers to this amount, has been introduced into the minute of sale. The transport to be granted on payment of the first instalment (6 months hence), until which time the seller is to occupy, rent free, the dwelling-house, offices, and grazings in front. The purchase, as it now stands, is considered a very favourable one for the labourers; but such was their anxiety (caused, as there is every reason to believe, by the misunderstanding existing between them and their employers relative to reduction of wages, &c. on estates), to have the place, or some such property, that they actually concluded a bargain with Mr. Christiani for the back lands of the estate, on very disadvantageous terms, before I had been consulted. On my suggestion, however, Mr. Christiani at once passed from that partial sale, and sold the whole estate to them, with an extension of the terms of payment.

From the character of the purchasers, who are all from the immediate adjoining estates, and personally known to me, I have no doubt that they will turn the purchase to good account, and have the whole price paid within 12 months.

(True Copy.)
H. E. F. YOUNG, Government Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. MACLENNAN,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

Encl. in No. 69.

(No. 16.)

No. 70.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, January 20, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the return of emigrants who have arrived in British Guiana during the year 1841, according to instructions received in Circular of 29th May last.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

No. 70.

Whence Emigrating.	14 Years and upwards.		Bel 7 and
	M.	F.	M.
Madeira . . .	1,323	1,170	458
West India Islands. . .	1,692	638	116
Sierra Leone.	277	94	6
Rio de Janeiro	88	57	84
„	Landed at the Port of B fication of whom in m 232 males, and 147 fem		
Total . .	3,380	1,959	664

(No. 17.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH
Government H

No. 71.

I HAVE the honour to
December last, of the state
emigrants, and Portuguese.

- No. 1.
- No. 2.
- No. 3.
- No. 4.

One Coolie died at Anna
good.

The absentees reported, 1
to have been contented; and
have sought employment e
estate, though with their own

The Portuguese return p
industrious and quiet people
largely, but they are so dirt
selves, either in sickness or
repelling disease. Their ab
remarkable, and maternal fi
exist. I have seen myself, in
under slight symptoms of f
their own convenience in b
attendants have been consta
almost without exception—f
patients into the Hospital.

This however may be add
resist the climate, soon adop
women, whom I remember,
new-comers, are decked out
their husbands and their coi
beaver hats, in full enjoymen

No. 70.

Passage was granted by the Colonial Legislature of British Guiana.

Number of Domestic Servants.			Number of Mechanics engaged in erecting Buildings, or in obtaining or preparing Building Materials.	Number of Tradesmen preparing or selling Articles of Food.	Number of Tradespeople engaged in making articles of Clothing.			Number of other Mechanics, &c. not included in the foregoing Columns.	Amount per Head of Emigrant Tax.	Gross Amount of Emigrant Tax received during the Year.	Remarks.
M.	F.	Total.			M.	F.	Total.				
..	100	In the computation of agricultural labourers, adults only have been taken into account, although there are many of those between the ages of 7 and 14 years who are very useful, and perform various sorts of light work on estates.
195	283	478	234	20	..	..	..	83	..	..
..	..	..	25	..	..	..	..	50 Boatmen	..	..
Captured Africans, without any particular trade or calling.			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	
195	283	478	259	120	133	

JAMES HACKETT,
 Agent General for Immigration,
 British Guiana,
 January 19, 1842.

Enclosure in No. 71.

MONTHLY Report respecting Hill Coolies in British Guiana, 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Number on Estate.			Absentees' Names.	Number of Days Absent.	Deaths since last Report, Names and Dates.	Number of Sick on 31st ultimo, and General State of Health.	Particulars and Result of any Complaint preferred in the course of the past Month.
	Men.	Women.	Children.					
Plantation— Belle Vue	56	1	..	Jonhye Sing on leave for instruction.	Since 7th June, 1839.	Suchea, 10th Dec. 1841. Child, 16th Dec. 1841.	21. State of health good	None.
Wales	49	2	3	Puckeron . Nanain . Sunker . Cadabur . Buldee . Lubyn . Uddord . Anoop . Garino . Jeebun . Pomada . Torronti .	Since last return. " " " " " " Since 27th Dec. 1841. " " Dec. 1st "	None " " " " " " Goopy, 12th Dec. 1841.	10. Ditto 4. Ditto	Ditto. Ditto.
Friedestea	22	..	..	..	..	None	10. Ditto	Ditto.
Anna Regina . . .	40	3	6	..	..	Goopy, 12th Dec. 1841.	4. Ditto	Ditto.
Highbury	92	7	10	..	..	None ..	9. Ditto	Ditto.
Waterloo	38	..	..	Ramjan . Puckera .	118 80	None	13. Ditto	Ditto.

(Correct from the Returns.)
 W. B. WOLSELEY. Assistant Government Secretary.

MONTHLY Return of Captured Africans in District B, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Boys.	Girls.	Men.	Boys.	Girls.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Success Cuming's Lodge . . .	1 ..	12 6	6 14	1 ..	10 6	4 14	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	Very good Ditto.	These captured Africans are well lodged and kindly treated in the manner stated in my former Report, and are now paid in money for their labour, according to the amount of work performed, and at the same rate as the like creoles of the estates.

DON. MACLENNAN, S. M., District B.

MONTHLY Return of Captured Africans, Emigrants in District D, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Vrede en Hoop . . .	16	8	7	16	6	..	..	..	..	Very good	Lodgings in a new range of cottages. Wages from 2 to 3 bits per day. Their occupation has hitherto been light work, and they have been permitted to absent themselves frequently for the purpose of gradually acquainting them with their duties, and insuring their health. They have hitherto been victualled at the expense of the proprietors, and the daily amount of their labour has been carried to their credit in a book kept for that purpose, and as soon as they are sufficiently informed of their situation, the amount of their pay will be given them, deducting a reasonable sum per diem for their daily rations.

W. J. SANDIFORD, Stipendiary Magistrate, District D.

MONTHLY Return of Captured Africans, Emigrants in District G, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Hoff Van Aurick . . .	7	3	11	7	3	10	..	..	..	Very good—all in good health.	From 3 to 7 dollars per month. They are lodged at present with the estate's people, and appear to be very happy and comfortable. The wages from 3 to 8 dollars, with an allowance of 3 lbs. of salt-fish weekly, with rice. These people are located with the estate's people; have not worked so well in the field as in the buildings, but the work is done better, although only one quarter is performed. I can account for this deficiency only by their not being used to the hoe, as they remain in the field after the Creoles of this country have finished their task, and it will require some time before they can compete with them.
Huirti Dysen . . .	10	5	4	7	4	4	..	..	..	They have enjoyed excellent health.	

A. M. LYONS, S. J. P., District G.

MONTHLY Return of Captured Africans, Emigrants in District G, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Batsaba's Lust . . .	6	6	8	6	4	7	..	..	..	Very good, being quite free from any ailment whatever.	Wages from 4 to 6 dollars per month. Located with the estate's people, and appear happy and contented.

A. M. LYONS, S. J. P., District G.

MONTHLY Return of Captured African Emigrants in District H, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Reliance	5	5	9	5	5	8	..	..	..	Good	These Africans continue to be treated, lodged, and paid, as described last month. They have not yet commenced to cultivate provision grounds. No arrangement has yet been made for their mental improvement.
Richmond	7	4	9	7	4	9	..	..	..	Good. One woman sickly (dyspepsia).	These Africans are paid and lodged as reported last month. They are reported to receive 1 bunch of plantains each weekly; and that an arrangement has been made for their instruction by the parish schoolmaster (of one hour in the evening), to commence immediately.

J. ALLEN, Stip. Magistrate, District M.

MONTHLY Return of Captured Africans, Emigrants in District I, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Cotton Tree	6	5	1	6	3	..	..	..	..	Good.	Good lodgings, fed and clothed, and proportionate wages. Idem.
Woodley Park . . .	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	Good.	
Waterloo . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	Good.	Idem.
Hope and Experiment No. 17.	1	..	9	1	..	..	..	..	..
Foulis . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Profit . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Waterloo . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	8	5	11	8	3	4	..	..	..		These captured Africans appear to be very happy in their present state.

A. VAN RUYK DE GHOOR, Stip. Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Captured Africans in District K, under Charge of Charles Henry Strutt, S. J. P., this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Blairmount . . .	7	7	11	7	7	10	Good.	The Africans located upon estates in my district are all comfortably housed and well cared for, and are paid wages the same as the other labourers, in proportion to the quantity of work performed by them. As a body these people continue remarkably healthy, and improve daily in habits of industry and civilization.
Balthyock . . .	1	2	8	1	1	8	..	..	..	Good. A woman named Sally Johnston very ill with dropsy, and removed to Colonial Hospital by me.
Providence . . .	8	9	18	8	9	13	..	..	..	Good.
Everton . . .	6	6	10	6	6	10	..	..	..	Good.
Friends . . .	5	3	32	5	3	32	..	..	..	Good.
New Forest . . .	1	3	15	1	3	15	..	..	..	Good.
Lochaber . . .	5	1	7	5	1	6	..	..	..	Good.

(A true Report.) Witness my hand, CHARLES HENRY STRUTT, S. M.

MONTHLY Return of Captured Africans, Emigrants in District L, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Hanover	4	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	Good	Not yet put to full work, they are remunerated according to the quantity of labour executed. They are well taken care of, and their lodgings are very good. Church and school close at hand. Not yet put to full work, they are remunerated according to the quantity of labour executed, they are well taken care of, and their lodgings are very good. A school on the estate, under the management of Mr. Inglis. Not yet put to full work, they are remunerated according to the quantity of labour executed, they are well taken care of, and their lodgings are very good. A school on the estate, under Mr. William Boullers.
Ma Rétraite . . .	3	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	Good	
Mara	7	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	Good	

CHARLES R. WHINFIELD, Sheriff, Stipendiary Magistrates' District L.

MONTHLY Return of Captured Africans, in District M, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Prospect	1	1	8	1	1	8	General state of their health good	Their lodging is good, their comforts are attended to, and wages are paid to them in the same ratio as to the other estate's labourers.
Smithson's Place . .	1	2	5	1	2	5	..	..	..
Canefield	9	..	13	9	..	13	..	..	..
Rose Hall	4	4	14	4	4	14	..	..	..
Reliance	2	..	8	2	..	8		All these Africans appear happy and contented, and give general satisfaction.
Goldstone Hall . .	3	4	4	3	4	4	..	..	..
Albion	3	..	10	..	..	9	..	..	..	One child rather sickly.
Mary's Hope . . .	..	3	14	3	3	13	..	..	..	One infant ditto.
Eliza and Mary . .	5	5	11	4	5	10	..	..	..	One infant ditto, one man delicate, recovering from dysentery.
Skildon	7	5	7	7	5	7	..	..	..

Difference in this month's return from the last;—one man, with his wife and child, left Plantation Smithson's Place, and went to Plantation Lockhaber.

W. J. BRITAIN, Stipendiary Magistrate, District M.

CAPTURED AFRICANS, January 1, 1842.

Present Location.	Number.	Mortality last Month.
District B . . .	39	None.
" D . . .	31	"
" G . . .	30	"
" H . . .	39	"
" I . . .	24	"
" K . . .	165	"
" L . . .	30	"
" M . . .	153	"

There has scarcely been any sickness among these people since their arrival, and the mortality has been confined to those cases which were received in a hopeless state from Rio de Janeiro.

N. B. The climate is too hot for Indian rubber.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District A, (Upper Division,) this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Helena.	14	2	2	14	2	2	..	..	..	Very good	They are extremely well lodged, and their wages are—men 50 cents, women 33, children 17.

GEORGE HALL, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District A, (Lower Section,) this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Greenfield	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	Very good	From 33 to 50 cents.
Enmore	11	3	2	11	..	..	..	..	..	Ditto	Earn from 33 to 50 cents. Lodgings excellent; work steadily.

J. MacLEOD, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District B, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Montrose	25	4	1	25	4	Very good.	All the emigrants continue in the enjoyment of good health, and in giving satisfaction to their employers; they are well lodged, and paid according to the amount of labour performed, and earn as much as the other estates' labourers. They became more unsettled on some estates, during the last month than they had hitherto been, and have expressed great dissatisfaction at the proposed general reduction of wages.
La Resouvenir	6	3	1	6	3	1	..	..	..	Ditto.
Chateau-margo	14	4	4	14	4	..	..	..	..	Ditto.
Cuming's Lodge	23	9	2	23	6	..	..	..	..	Ditto.
Turkeyen	4	4	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	Ditto.
Industry	1	1	3	1	1	2	..	..	..	Ditto.
Ogle	18	8	5	18	8	..	..	..	..	Ditto.

MONTHLY Return of African (Sierra Leone) Emigrants on Estates in Town Division, District C, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Thomas	14	6	6	14	5	..	..	..	..	Good	Wages from five to six bits per day; average earnings ten dollars per month for each labourer. Lodgings unexceptionable.
Belair	11	4	2	11	3	..	..	..	..	Healthy	Wages as above. Lodgings good.

K. HEYLAND, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District E, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Meten Moursong . .	11	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	Excellent	They are paid at the same rate as the other labourers on the estate, and their lodgings are good. One man has not worked during the last month, but has not been sick.

J. O. LOCKHART MURE, Stipendiary Magistrate, District E.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District F, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Bank Hall	1	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	These emigrants are very healthy	These emigrants are accommodated in a comfortable cottage, and they earn generally twelve dollars per month.
Maryville	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	These emigrants are healthy	Employed as boatmen; wages ten dollars per month, and found in provisions.

WALTER HOWARD WARE, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District G, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Hamburgh	19	1	..	19	1	..	..	..	..	Very good, having been quite free from any sickness.	From 11 to 14 dollars per month, with a weekly allowance of 3 lbs. of fish and 10 lbs. of rice. Their houses are excellent.
Sophienburg	14	5	9	12	..	3	..	..	..	Very good, not having experienced any indisposition.	Wages eight dollars per month, the women have retired from field-labour. Children four dollars, with 2 lbs. of salt fish and 7 lbs. of rice. On all the estates where Africans are located allowances will cease on the 1st January, 1842. Their houses are excellent.

A. LYONS, S. J. P., District G.

MONTHLY Return of Sierra Leone Emigrants in District H, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Reliance	14	2	1	10	2	..	..	..	..	Good	No change whatever has taken place with regard to the condition of these people as reported during the last two months. Ditto. Ditto.
Lima	13	6	2	7	3	..	..	..	..	Ditto	
Walton Hall	7	5	1	7	5	..	..	..	..	Ditto	

JA. ALLEN, Stipendiary Magistrate.

No. 3.

SIERRA LEONE Emigrants, January 1st, 1842.

Present Location.		Number.	Mortality last Month.
District Upper	A .	18	None.
„ Lower	A .	17	„
„	B .	140	„
„ Town Section	C .	43	„
„ River „	C .	..	„
„	E .	11	„
„	F .	5	„
„	G .	48	„
„	H .	51	„

There has scarcely been any sickness among these emigrants since their arrival. The above are on plantations; any that may be employed in the towns and villages are not included.

No. 4.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District A, (Upper Division,) this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Cane Grove	15	8	1	8	6	1	..	..	2	None are at present dangerously ill, but more than half their number are sickly and unable to work.	Their lodgings are good, and wages high; namely, 50 cents. to the men, 33 to the women, and 16 to children.
Melville . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1		There are no Portuguese now on this estate, the few that remained having been sent to the hospital at Georgetown, with the exception of one who was too ill to be removed and who has since died.
Supply	1	1	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	These people are perfectly healthy, having been some years in the colony. Their health is good at present, but there has been one death since they came to the estate, that of a woman who arrived in a sickly condition.	Wages the same as above.
Fellowship	7	4	3	6	4	..	..	1	..		These people have just arrived at Fellowship, having come from Plantation Profit in Berbice, where they had been located since last September, at which time they emigrated to the colony. They are tolerably well lodged, their wages the same as on the other estates, and they seem very well satisfied with their treatment.

GEORGE BALL, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District B, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Success	14	8	6	7	3	..	..	1	..	<p>Their general state of health upon this estate, is good, with the exception of occasional attacks of intermittent fever, and consequent debility.</p> <p>During part of last month, intermittent fever and consequent debility, prevailed to a great extent on both these estates, but disappeared towards the close of the month; and only one on Lusignan, and two on Annandale, were in hospital, and in both cases the patients were in a convalescent state. The yellow fever has disappeared among them.</p>	<p>The wages of the Portuguese on these three estates, are the same as the other labourers, regulated by the amount of work performed. Their lodgings and general treatment are very good, and every attention has been paid to them in sickness. Many of them have left Annandale and Lusignan, in consequence of changing their wages from a fixed sum per month (7 dollars to men, and 6 to women,) and finding them in food, to cash payments on the same scale as the other labourers, and leaving them to find themselves. Those who went away, left in good health.</p>
Lusignan Annandale	8 6	7 9	4 5	5 5	3 3	3 4	2 2	1 ..	..	

DON. MACLENNAN, Stipendiary Magistrate, District B.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants on Estates in Town Division, District C, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— La Penitence	90	81	115	60	10	8	3	1	11	Not good; measles and dysentery prevalent.	From one-third of a dollar to two-thirds. Lodgings good.

K. HEYLAND, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District D, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Vrede en Hoop	31	26	26	21	20	7	1	..	..	Good	<p>The average of wages about 12 dollars per month for adults. Lodgings in a commodious coffee lodge fitted up into compartments.</p> <p>Wages as usual.</p>
Ponderain Schoon Ord . . . . .	..	..	3	..	..	3	..	..	2	Sickly Generally good, but subject to sores and ulcers.	
Nismes	19	21	46	19	21	28	..	1	4	Pretty good	<p>The immigrants on this estate have been working fairly and chiefly engaged in field labour; wages, one guilder per task. Lodgings as per last Return.</p> <p>The immigrants having lately arrived in the colony, have as yet not performed any field labour.</p>
Teevlucht	12	15	9	..	..	..	..	1	..	Rather sickly, having recently arrived and suffering from debility and measles.	
La Grange	23	19	28	23	15	8	1	2	8	Getting better.	
	332	119	180	85	59	46	25				

W. J. SANDIFORD, Stipendiary Magistrate, District D.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District E, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Best	10	14	21	10	10	7	..	1	2	Indifferent, several cases of small-pox.	The same rate of wages is paid to the Portuguese as to the other labourers. The lodgings, except at Plantation Edinburgh, are good. The emigrants at Edinburgh have been offered good houses at Leonora, but they prefer the former estate. At Vrees en Hoop there is no proper hospital or sick nurse. A cottage has lately been used as an hospital. The accommodation however is not sufficient. Better accommodation for the sick, and an experienced sick nurse are promised. No bedsteads have yet been given to the Portuguese. The greater part of the Portuguese at Meten Meerzorg arrived on that estate during the last month, and many of them, particularly the children, in a very unhealthy state.
Nouvelle Flandre	10	10	11	7	4	7	1	..	..	Less sickly than in the preceding month.
Windsor Forest	5	3	2	4	3	..	..	1	..	Good.
Hague	19	16	50	15	7	20	2	1	2	Very sickly.	
Cornelia Ida	15	14	21	12	11	7	..	..	..	Very good.
Edinburgh	21	12	14	18	6	4	..	2	..	Indifferent.	
Vrees en Hoop	32	24	24	28	14	7	5	3	3	Very sickly.	
Uitvlugt	21	19	37	21	19	21	2	..	2	Sickly.	
Meten Meerzorg	18	30	38	14	16	18	..	..	5	Ditto.

J. O. LOCKHART MURE, S. J. P., District E.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District F, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Endeavour.	9	9	8	3	These emigrants still continue very sickly.	These emigrants are accommodated in cottages, which are supplied with beds, bedding, tables, and benches. Those that did work during the past month, earned 7 dollars. These emigrants are accommodated in a good cottage. Those at work, earn from 10 to 12 dollars per month. The accommodation upon this estate is very indifferent. These emigrants, in consequence of sickness, have earned but little wages last month. The accommodation upon this estate, is very good. Those at work, earned from 10 to 12 dollars per month. These emigrants are accommodated in a superior cottage, supplied with beds, bedding, tables, and benches. Those at work received 10 dollars last month. These emigrants have very good cottages, supplied with beds, bedding, tables, and benches. Those at work earn from 10 to 12 dollars per month. These emigrants are still accommodated in the Estate's Hospital, the cottages not yet being ready for their reception. Those at work earn from 8 to 10 dollars per month. The accommodation upon this estate at present is good. Those at work earn from 8 to 10 dollars per month.
Zealandia	3	2	1	3	..	..	1	..	1	The emigrants upon this estate are healthy.
Elizabeth Anne	9	5	6	2	1	2	2	1	2	The emigrants upon this estate still continue very sickly.	
Success	4	3	3	4	2	1	..	..	..	These emigrants are very healthy.
Enterprise	8	2	..	6	1	..	..	..	..	These emigrants are healthy.
Blenheim	20	14	29	9	..	3	1	..	1	A great number of these emigrants are at present laid up with fever and ulcers.	
Retrieve	11	6	12	8	3	6	..	1	2	A few of these emigrants are at present sickly.	
Friendship	4	3	5	4	1	..	..	..	..	These emigrants are healthy.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District F, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Caledonia	10	6	13	7	4	5	..	1	..	A few of these emigrants have been sickly during the past month, but the majority of them are in good health.	These people are accommodated in good cottages, supplied with beds, bedding, tables, and benches. Those at work generally earn from 8 to 10 dollars per month.
Meersorg	14	31	10	7	8	6	..	1	..	Some of these emigrants have been sickly during the past month, but they are now convalescent.	These emigrants are partly accommodated in a large cottage, and partly in a building used as an Estate's Hospital. Those at work earn from 8 to 10 dollars per month.
Maria Johanna . . .	16	10	8	7	6	4	..	1	2	These emigrants have been very sickly during the past month.	These people are accommodated in cottages, supplied with beds, bedding, tables, and benches. Those at work earn from 8 to 10 dollars per month.
Bendorff	15	9	33	6	3	1	1	2	1	These emigrants have been very sickly during the past month, and some of them are at present in a dangerous state.	These emigrants are accommodated in good cottages. Those at work earn from ten to twelve dollars per month. The mortality and sickness upon this estate has been greater than upon any other in the district, though the emigrants express themselves satisfied with their treatment. The want of a good hospital has been severely felt by them. The wages vary from eight to ten dollars.
Sarah	2	3	7	2	..	..	1	..	1	The young children of the Portuguese emigrants have been very sickly during the past month, but the adults have been healthy.	These emigrants are accommodated in good cottages. The wages they receive vary from eight to ten dollars per month.
Moorfarm	12	5	4	11	4	..	..	..	..	These emigrants are very healthy.	These people are accommodated in good cottages. The wages they receive vary from ten to twelve dollars per month.

WALTER HOWARD WARE, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District G, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation— Ondernuring . . .	14	3	14	9	1	9	..	1	..	This woman died from premature confinement. Their health during the last month has not been so good as the previous; great debility and weakness.	Wages, on an average, from three to eight dollars per month. Lodgings very good.
Aurora . . . . .	..	2	6	..	..	..	1	1	..	Very bad; twelve men have left the estate; eleven women and thirteen children are gone to George Town.	Well lodged; healthily situated.
Good Intent . . . .	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	Left to the care of the manager, being left destitute of parents.	Lodged comfortably and well situated.
Spring Grove	6	2	1	6	2	..	..	1	..	Very good generally; one death from great debility.	Wages ten dollars per month. Good houses, and appear comfortably situated.

A. M. LYONS, Stipendiary Magistrate, District G.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District H, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Taynmouth Manor . .	21	11	5	14	9	2	Good	The lodgings and wages of the Portuguese immigrants to 31st December inclusive, continued the same as reported on the 1st of last month. Those located on Taynmouth Manor and Better Success, receive an allowance of provisions, besides wages; and on the said estates they are represented as doing well. All the Portuguese located on Affiance left for Georgetown, or other estates, early last month. The greater number have likewise left La Belle Alliance. A large proportion of the Portuguese, through indolence or inability, do little work; and they and their employers seem equally dissatisfied with each other.
Mainstay	8	8	10	4	2	3	..	..	..	Middling.
Anna Regina	4	2	9	2	..	3	..	1	..	Ditto.	
Richmond	15	13	7	7	4	4	..	1	..	Pretty good.	
La Belle Alliance . .	3	2	3	..	..	..	..	1	1	Indifferent.
Lima	15	10	8	5	6	..	..	..	..	Good.
Sparta	3	2	4	..	..	..	1	1	..	Middling.
Windsor Castle . . .	23	16	17	7	6	2	..	..	1	Indifferent.
Better Success . . .	9	10	21	9	8	11	..	1	1	Good.	

J. A. ALLEN, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District I, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
The only Portuguese Emigrants in this district are stationed at Plantation Profit.	3	5	2	2	3	2	1	..	..	Sickly.	Good lodging found, and paid in proportion to the work performed.

A. VAN RYCK DE GROOT, Stipendiary Magistrate, District I.

MONTHLY Return of Portuguese Emigrants in District M, this 1st January, 1842.

Location.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Eliza and Mary . . .	7	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	From their appearance and the opinion of the doctor, the health of the Portuguese on both these estates is improving considerably. None of them, however, have as yet done any work worth noticing.	The utmost care is taken of them, they want for nothing that can contribute to their recovery.
Skeldon	8	4	8	..	..	..	1	1	..		

W. J. BRITTAIN, Stipendiary Magistrate, District M.

PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE.

MADEIRA Emigrants, 1st January, 1842.

Present Location.			Number.	Mortality in the last Month.
District, Upper	A		50	4
" Lower	A		No Return	No Return
" "	B		67	6
" Town Section	C		286	15
" River	C		No Return	No Return
" "	D		431	25
" "	E		511	32
" "	F		399	30
" "	G		56	4
" "	H		258	9
" "	I		10	1
" "	K		None in District	None in District.
" "	L		Ditto	Ditto
" "	M		31	2
No. at present in Rural Districts			2,099	128
In Colonial Hospital, from 1st				30
to 31st December				
Total				151

A RETURN of Portuguese Emigrants who have Died in the Colonial Hospital, Demerara, from 1st January to 1st December, 1841.

Location at the time of being seized with Sickness.	Name of Deceased.	Supposed Age.	Name of Vessel in which the Deceased came to the Colony.	Disease of which the deceased Died, or Cause of Death.	Remarks.
Mahaica	John Francis	43		Mal d'estomac	20th July.—No deaths up to this date. An old wood-cutter, constitution broken down.
Plantation Lima	Manuel Ferara	47		Yellow fever	August.—Came to town in perfect health.
Georgetown	Josephine	10		Remittent infantile fever (Moribund).	
Plantation Hurstelling	Francis De Fritter	19		Yellow fever.	
Georgetown	Manuel Rodrigues	14		Cachectic sloughing blister	September. — Starved, and emaciated.
"	Maria Dycarish	16		Convulsions (Moribund).	
Plantation Beat	Juan Gonsalves	4		Ulceration of the colon . .	Starved; admitted in a wretched and deplorable state.
Georgetown	A Portuguese woman (name unknown).			Yellow fever (Moribund).	
Plantation Houston . . .	Maria Zeukima	54		Sloughing sore	Sent in a very bad state of health; emaciated, and very low.
Georgetown	Francisco	29		Yellow fever.	
"	Jokin De Fritters	19		"	
Maria's Lodge	Maria Jolial	8		(Moribund).	October. — Left with other Portuguese, at 6 a.m. on America Stelling, where they were exposed to the sun and starving until 5 p.m.
"	Manuel Thalio	64		Exhaustion from fever . .	Left on Stelling with her mother for 12 hours.
Plantation Houston . . .	Theodorio Silvery	28		Moribund	
Maria's Lodge	Leopoldina	1		"	
Georgetown	Manuel Gomez	24		Yellow fever.	
"	Francisco	22		(Moribund).	
"	Juan Vieira	19		"	
"	Druardila	16		"	
On board	Anna Joachima	3	Sh. Enterprise	Measles	Admitted in the very last stage; emaciated to skeleton; diarrhoea.
"	Jokina De Freitas	3	"	"	November.
"	August Antonio	3	"	"	
"	Juan Fernandez	8	"	"	
Plantation La Penitence	Manuel Dandra	4	"	Yellow fever.	
" Malgrotout	Antonio Dobrige	4	"	Neglected eye disease (loss of eyes).	Starved to skeletons.
Georgetown	Maria Dusan	24	"	Diarrhoea (last stage) . .	
Plantation La Penitence	Joseph Deponte	22	"	Yellow fever.	
Georgetown	John Da Fruetas	26	"	"	
"	Antonio Densbrigos	25	"	"	
On board	Manuel De Silvas	24	Sh. Enterprise	Varicella (neglected).	
Georgetown	Francisco Gomez	12	"	Yellow fever.	
On board	Maria Francisco	5	Sh. Enterprise	Measles	
Georgetown	Joseph Gonsalves	21	"	Yellow fever.	
Plantation Reinfield . .	Francisco Gomez De Rama	26	"	"	
" Canegrove	Claudria Jesus	16	"	Remittent bilious fever . .	Wretched, starved, and half dead when admitted.

A Return of Portuguese Immigrants who have Died in the Colonial Hospital, Demerara, &c.—*continued.*

Location at the time of being seized with Sickness.	Name of Deceased.	Supposed Age.	Name of Vessel in which the Deceased came to the Colony.	Disease of which the Deceased Died, or Cause of Death.	Remarks.
Capuey	Maria Jazuy	40		Abortus.	
Plantation La Penitence	Antonio Rodriguez	38		Yellow fever (dying).	
On board	Donnacimento	9	Sh. <i>Enterprise</i>	Measles.	
Georgetown	Manuel Da Court	22		Yellow fever.	
Plantation Canegrove	Manuel Juan	5		Starvation, and diarrhoea	All but dead on admission.
„ Houston	Juan Caldera Da Silva	30		Yellow fever.	
„ Farm		16		„ (dying)	Died 2 hours after admission.
„ Best	Florentina Jazuy	22		„	
„ Schoonoid	Jose Rodriguez	40		„	
„ La Penitence	Christopher Marks	31		„	
„ Providence	Antonio Gomez	40		„	
Georgetown	Gerardo D'Olivera	20		Convulsions.	
Plantation Annadale	Maria Coirea	7		Diarrhoea, and starvation.	
Georgetown	Anna Jesus	19		Yellow fever.	
„	Juan D'Olivera	24		„	
„	Antonio Gonzalves	23		„	
„	Antonio Ribeiro	18		„	
Capuey	Manuel De Cayrish	8		Measles.	
Plantation Nouvelle Flandres	Manuel Gomez	26		Yellow fever.	
„ Ranfield	Rosa Da Jesus	19		„	

There have been admitted, from the 1st January to 1st December, 569 Portuguese, of whom 55 died; giving a per centage of 9.66.

H. A. Koon, M.D., Resident Surgeon.

SUPPLEMENT.

A RETURN of Portuguese Emigrants who have Died in the Colonial Hospital, Demerara, from 1st to 31st December, 1841.

Location at the time of being seized with Sickness.	Name of Deceased.	Supposed Age.	Name of Vessel in which the Deceased came to the Colony.	Disease of which the Deceased Died, or Cause of Death.	Remarks.
Georgetown	Carlotta Jesus	4		Debility, worms, and fever.	
Plantation Ruimveld	Rosa Da Conceicao	18		Yellow fever.	
„ Schoon Ord	Juan Nones	20		Ditto.	
Lequan Island	Juan Antonio	59		Anasarca, from fever.	
Plantation Sephoon Ord	Francisco Da Silva	30		Measles, dying state.	
„ Annadale	Antonio Gomez	50		Diarrhoea, convalescent from yellow fever.	
„ Maria's Lodge	Maria Jokina	5		Debility from fever.	
„ Cane Grove	Jokina Govia	7		Ditto.	
„ Malgretout	Manuel Marquez	7		Measles.	
„	Maria Gonsalves	2		Debility from fever.	
Georgetown	Manuel D'Olivera	4		Ditto, and starvation.	
„	Juan Feriara	7		Hæmoptisis; half-starved.	Admitted in the last stage of disease.
„	Pedro Marquez	4		Moribund when admitted.	
Plantation Vreed en Hoop	Paulo Marquez	44		Yellow fever.	
Georgetown	Philicio Rosa	28		Ditto.	
„	Jesinta Marquis	15		Extreme emaciation.	
„		1		Ditto.	
„	Maria Joseph	1		Ditto.	
Plantation Houston	Perpetua	23		Asertes; very bad sores.	
Georgetown	Manuel Ponta	5		Yellow fever.	
Plantation Leonora	Benta Maria	17		Fever & pregnancy (Abortus).	
„ Providence	Anna Gonsalves	32		Diarrhoea; extreme debility from fever.	
Georgetown	Anna De Freitas	20		Moribund; abuse of calomel.	
Plantation Ruimveld	Manuel D'Olivera	28		Black vomit; last stage.	
„ Leonora	Maria Marquis	30		Yellow fever.	
„ Providence	Elia Athelia	20		Black vomit.	
„ „	Antonio	1		Exhaustion.	
„ Zorg	Juan Ferrara	32		Yellow fever.	
„ Little Diamond	Maria Jesus	25		Ditto.	
„ Leonora	Thomas De Camara	22		Ditto.	
„ Houston	Manuel Dobrio	7		Debility from fever.	

There have been admitted from 1st to 31st December, 169 Portuguese, of whom 30 died; giving a per centage of 15.87.

H. A. Koon, M.D., Resident Surgeon.

BRITISH GUIANA (No. 21.)

No. 72.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY, dated
Government House, Demerara, January 24th, 1842.

No. 72.
1841.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch, No. 37, date 16th December. (Page 103.)

In reply to the concluding paragraph of that Despatch, I would draw your Lordship's attention to the fact mentioned by me in my Despatch, No. 82, date 15th July, (page 31,) that the planters in the year 1840, thought only of taking advantage of the high prices of sugar, and did not attend to the cultivation for succeeding crops. In 1841, the early part of the year was employed in doing that which was neglected in the previous year, consequently less sugar was made in the three first quarters than in the preceding year, during the same periods; the quarter ending 31st December, 1841, showed an increase, though on the whole year there has been undoubtedly a large decrease, upwards of 6,000 hogsheads.

No. 8. 8th January,
1842.

Page 174.

I have never looked for more than 40,000 hogsheads annually, being the fall proportion to be expected from the present strength of the labouring population, free from coercion, and not disposed to do extra work, as in the period of apprenticeship, when the labourers were induced by high money payments to give more work to the estates than the tariff of labour prescribed.

The produce from Berbice is larger in 1841 than in 1840; and on many estates in the two remaining counties, on which equal attention had been paid to the cultivation as to the manufacture of sugar, there has been little or no diminution.

I may mention Rome and Houston, and the estates of Sir Michael MacTurk as the first presented to my recollection.

During 1841 so much attention had been paid to the cultivation of the cane-fields, and the labourers had worked so continuously, as in some degree to satisfy the planters, that though there might be a diminution of crop in 1841, yet the prospects for 1842 were very favourable; what the result may be from the late disagreement between the labourers and their employers, I am not prepared to anticipate; three weeks' cessation from labour at a most favourable season of the year must undoubtedly risk the amount of crop proportionally.

The complaints made of ill done and slovenly work are general; the cultivation of the sugar cane requires great attention to weeding, draining, and replanting, where the old plants does not send forth fresh shoots. Neglect of this will always affect the crop, and a cane piece is more or less productive, according to the preciseness of the necessary labour.

Planters who were afraid of losing hands on their estate, even though idle ones, because other planters would readily receive them, encouraged even the industrious to be negligent in their work; the crops have suffered in consequence; the cause has been confessed in those meetings of the planters which have been reported in my Despatch, No. 166, date 4th December.

I do not assume more than 25,000 effective labourers in the province at a large computation. Idle as the labourers have been considered by their employers, this even with the diminished crop of the last year gives more than one hogshead and a third per head—as much as ordinary results have been computed by practical and experienced planters.

While I regret equally with your Lordship the decrease in the quantity of sugar exported from this province in the past year, I see no reason for supposing any progressive decrease will occur, the moment mutual confidence is restored between the planters and the labourers.

(No. 22.)

No. 73.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Government House, Demerara, January 24th, 1842.

No. 73.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch No. 39, dated 27th December. (Page 110.)

My despatches, acknowledged by your Lordship, have been followed by other statements relative to the Portuguese from Madeira. My Despatch, No. 157, date 22nd November, (page 125,) will have reported to your Lordship that it was determined, that emigration from Madeira should cease after the first March—

the earliest period that could be fixed, so as to prevent interference with arrangements that might have been made by the agent at Madeira.

I trust that my determination to stop emigration from that quarter will receive your Lordship's approval.

I regret, for the sake of the colony, that the climate is so unfavourable to the Portuguese, though the temperature is not, perhaps, higher than in their native island. In health, they are a most industrious, hard working, and hitherto most honest and submissive race.

Those who remain in town as shopkeepers and hucksters, though often sickly, are useful; they accumulate money by small gains and great economy, and many of them will acquire comparative wealth, which of course will not remain in this colony.

Your Lordship will have seen in the estimate for the year 1842, that a blank had been left there, on the application of Bishop Clancy, for four additional Roman Catholic priests; but from the temper of the non-official section of the Court of Policy, I do not expect that any sum will be voted in Combined Court. This is not just, and would have been good reason for the Portuguese Government opposing emigration from Madeira had it been advisable to continue it.

Despatch 175. 18th
December, 1841.

In allusion to the treatment of the Portuguese on their passage from Madeira, in the schooner Rienzi, as probably affecting their health, I refer your Lordship to my Despatch, No. 83, date 6th July, where I stated the circumstances connected with the fact. The captain, a subject of the United States, was fined 100 dollars and imprisoned 14 days; this, with the law expenses and the loss of 40 dollars a-day demurrage, would probably be a lesson to him for an imprudence resulting from unnecessary fears which, happily for him, as well as for the emigrants, were not attended during the voyage with any fatal results, however much those fears may have led to unfavourable termination of disease after the emigrants landed.

Your Lordship will have read in my Despatch, "Separate," date 7th December, that my attention has been turned to the subject of hospitals: some arrangement on their account must be made, which I trust will put an end to the uncertainty now existing. One of the most feasible, if district or estates' hospitals cannot be regulated by ordinance, has, I understand, been adopted by the Honourable John Croal, by mutual agreement between himself and labourers. He gives a house for a hospital, and finds medicines and medical attendance, the labourers on their part agreeing to establish a fund under management of certain of their body, who are to regulate and find the diet for the patients, under prescription of the medical attendant, from that fund. It is a fair arrangement, provided it can be applied generally.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

LONDON:
Printed by WILLIAM CLOWES and Sons, Stamford Street,
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

PAPERS

RELATIVE TO THE

WEST INDIES.

ANTIGUA, TRINIDAD, ST. LUCIA, GRENADA.

1841-2.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1842.

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PAPERS

RELATIVE TO

A N T I G U A.

(No. 5.)

No. 1.

ANTIGUA.

No. 1.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor MACPHAIL, Administering the General Government of the Leeward Islands, to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

Government House, Antigua, March 2, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith for your Lordship's information the Reports for the months of October, November, and December, furnished by the Stipendiary Magistrates for Antigua.

(A.)

Enclosure 1, in No. 1.

Sir,

St. John's, Antigua, 13th January, 1841.

In laying before your Excellency my report as a stipendiary magistrate in this island for the three months ending on the 31st ultimo, I have much satisfaction in being enabled to continue the favourable account of the general state of matters within my district, which has heretofore characterised my periodical reports, since I have been honoured with the appointment.

Encl. 1, in No. 1.

In fact, the course of events has varied so little from that of the preceding terms, that it is not easy to offer any observations which shall convey new information to your Excellency; and I would advert in particular to the last report, which I had the honour to submit, as being almost entirely applicable to the later period of which I am now to treat.

The general conduct of the labourers during the last three months has afforded no ground of exception, that I am aware of, to the former reports on this point; nor is there any want of good feeling between the employers and their labourers.

There is no variation calling for particular notice in the hours of labour, nor in the amount of wages given; where the peasantry undertake job-work it is not uncommon for them to work both earlier and later than the recognised working hours of the contract labourer. I have been told of their continuing their exertions by moonlight; and I have myself seen them cheerfully labouring without regard to weather.

No instances of renting out estates' cottages have come to my knowledge; but the independent villages are increasing, and the system is gradually and steadily extending itself.

Ample as may appear to be the means of instruction within the reach of the labouring population of the island, I am quite of opinion that there is great room for their extension with advantage to all parties; and I have been gratified to learn that there is a prospect of chapel-schools being erected, in what may be fairly termed the "model village" of "Liberta," and also in a more recent settlement named "Spring-hill," on the western borders of Falmouth Bay.

I have been informed that Mr. Sheppard, of Diagading Nook, has continued to cultivate the mulberry and to rear silkworms with great success; but unfortunately it is not easy to see, from the want of capital, how the persevering efforts of this individual are to be turned to practical account.

I am happy to be enabled to report that but few instances of emigration, as compared with the preceding quarter, have taken place.

I append to this report the usual returns, and analysis of cases, which have come before me

ANTIGUA.

that there is less disposition than heretofore to annoy and harass the labourers, because from some cause or other they may have preferred to seek employment elsewhere, than where their immediate connexions may chance to reside.

I regret to have to mention that the provision crops of the peasantry have been seriously affected by the ravages of a worm; thus counteracting to a certain extent the benefit derived from the late plentiful falls of rain.

It would be highly desirable that some more effectual means were adopted to check the illicit traffic, which there is no doubt is carried on more or less directly with the foreign islands in these seas; as the outbays and creeks of the island, more particularly on the south-eastern and south-western coasts, are the principal points of debarkation. It cannot be questioned that the peasantry in the neighbourhood may be contaminated, and habits of disorder, recklessness, and disregard of the laws acquired by the facilities which at present exist for joining in, and the specious temptations which surround enterprises of, this character.

The abundant rains and alternate sunshine with which the island has been favoured, have proved highly beneficial as well to the prospects for the future as to the crop on the ground.

The asylum for juvenile offenders has been put into active operation, and with good effect; but it must speedily become manifest that the extreme term for which the magistrates are authorized to commit children thereto, is utterly inadequate to the production of any lasting benefit to the character or disposition of the individuals subjected to its discipline.

I have great satisfaction in reporting that the 5th of November, and the Christmas holidays, both passed over in the most orderly manner, and without adding, in I believe a single instance, to the ordinary routine of cases brought before us.

I have for some time had in course of collection by the Inspector of Police at English Harbour materials for the compilation of a census of the inhabitants of the parish of St. Paul; I have to regret, however, that various circumstances have combined to retard their completion, and at present render it extremely doubtful whether the design can be accomplished even on the limited scale which I had contemplated.

I again avail myself of the opportunity to suggest the importance of obtaining accurate information on the subject of the "ten acre" lots in this parish; of which there is no doubt that a considerable portion has reverted to the public, and might be readily placed at the disposal of the Crown or the local legislature.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

WILLIAM WALKER,
J. P., and Stipendiary Magistrate.

His Excellency Major John Macphail,
&c. &c. &c.

ANALYSIS OF CASES.	Conv.	Dism.	TOTAL.	Sept. 1840.
Offences against Police Act, including "Riotous and disorderly Conduct," "Abusive Language," "Carters riding on their Carts," "Persons furiously Riding," &c. &c.	33	51	84	94
Assaults and Batteries	16	13	29	40
Malignant Injury to Property	12	17	29	11
Felonies (committed for Trial)	7	10	17	14
Breach of Contract	11	5	16	45
Porters and Jobbers	0	14	14	2
Vagrancy	2	6	8	4
Cattle Trespass	0	1	1	13
	81	117	198	223

Average No. of Cases per Month . . . 66

Ditto in September Quarter . . . 74

At Buckley's there were only Five Cases during the December Quarter.

Enclosure 2, in No. 1.

Sir,

Antigua, 22nd Jan., 1841.

Encl. 2, in No. 1.

THE termination of the year presents a favourable opportunity for my reporting to your Excellency the observations I have made respecting the agricultural prospects of those districts in which I have performed the duties of a magistrate.

The crop of last year was very good, and notwithstanding the drought, which greatly checked the growth of the canes early this season, there is no reason at present to anticipate any considerable falling off in the ensuing crop, especially when the canes have been well manured and properly attended to. The nature, however, of the soil is so variable, that what is considered favourable weather in one district is quite the reverse in other parts, and it is very difficult to arrive at a just estimate of the future prospects of the island.

The usual festivities at this season of the year amongst the labouring classes appear to have been kept within moderate bounds, and the peasantry are now pursuing their avocations without having (as in former years) demanded an increase of wages.

Emigration, which I understand has taken place to considerable extent in the adjacent islands, has not prevailed within my circuits so as to create uneasiness in the minds of the planters, and I am happy to report, that several small parcels of land are being disposed of by sale to the negroes, for building; this, in my opinion, is the best possible measure to prevent emigration, and as many gentlemen have lately altered their views upon this subject, there is reason to hope that the example given will be generally adopted. The price paid for a plot of ground, 48 feet by 42, is thirty dollars, or about £120 sterling per acre. £600 currency was offered for three acres, and refused, the proprietor being able to dispose of it to greater advantage in small allotments; these enormous prices will, of course, decrease as competition offers.

By the returns for the quarter ending the 31st of December, your Excellency will perceive a small increase in the number of convictions, but no offences of a grave nature have been brought unde my noticer. Petty thefts are, I fear, numerous; and from the expense and trouble of prosecuting at the sessions, many are compromised or altogether overlooked. Two young negroes were lately brought before me for stealing yams, the value in each case did not exceed sixpence sterling; and had the prosecution not been withdrawn, they must have been committed to jail until the March sessions.

Depredations of this description, if allowed to go unpunished, will doubtless lead to the commission of crimes of greater magnitude; and as the *certainty* of punishment is admitted to have greater effect than the *quantity* inflicted, I would venture to suggest as a remedy, that a summary jurisdiction in such cases be vested in the hands of two or more magistrates.

I abstain from offering an opinion on the moral condition of the peasantry, as regards their marriage contracts, religious duties, &c, these matters I know to be well looked into by the clergy of the Established Church, who are ably assisted by the zealous co-operation of the Wesleyan and Moravian Missions. I am, however, sorry to observe a very *irregular* attendance at Divine service in the parish Church, and which I attribute in some measure to the dances on Saturday evening, that are sometimes kept up in my neighbourhood to a very late hour.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

L. GRÆME, S. J. P.

His Excellency,
The Lieutenant-Governor,
Leeward Islands.

(A.)

POLICE OFFICE, ENGLISH HARBOUR.

Names of Persons who have been ejected, from 1st day of October to 31st day of December, 1840.

Nil.

Names of Persons committed as idle and disorderly, from the 1st day of October to 31st day of December, 1840.

Names of Persons committed as idle and disorderly Persons.	Names of Persons committed as Rogues and Vagabonds, and as incorrigible Rogues.	Date of every such Conviction.	Names of the Informer, and the ground on which the Conviction proceeded.	The length of Time for which they were to continue in force.
None	John Antigua .	November 3	The Assistant Inspector of Police. For being found wandering abroad, having no visible means of subsistence.	Ten days' hard labour in the House of Correction.
Johnny . . . . .	. . . . .	November 17	The Assistant Inspector. — Defendant a minor, entirely neglected, and having no occupation, was sent to the Juvenile Offenders Asylum.	Three months in the Juvenile Offenders Asylum.

Names of Persons who have entered into contracts of service, from 1st day of October to 31st day of December, 1840.

Nil.

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Names of Persons who have been punished for the non-performance of any contract of service, from 1st day of October to 31st day of December, 1840.

Names of Persons against whom we have pronounced Sentence, or made any Order for inflicting Punishment, for the Non-performance of any Contract of Service.	Date of such Sentence or Order.	Grounds on which such Sentence or Order proceeded.	Names of Persons at whose Information or Instance such Sentence or Order was made.	Nature and Amount of the Punishment awarded.
John Davis	27 Oct., 1840.	Withholding wages	William Johnston and Godfrey Webster.	Defendant ordered to pay wages claimed, 8s. 6d., and office-fees.
Jacob Mills	3 Nov. . .	Breach of contract, in quitting work without due notice.	David Cranstoun	Defendant to work the 30 days of notice.
Eleanor	,,	Ditto, in absenting herself without leave.	Rev. Nathaniel Gilbert.	Defendant to forfeit six days' wages to estate, and to pay fee.
Robert	10 — .	Ditto, neglect of duty as cattle keeper.	Henry E. Gale. .	Defendant to forfeit one week's wages.
William Thomas . .	27 — .	Ditto, by disobedience of orders.	Ditto	Ditto, ditto.
William Eales Ledcatt	15 Dec. . .	Ditto, by withholding wages.	Edward Samuel. .	Defendant ordered to pay wages, 7s. 6d.
Candace Francis . .	,,	Neglect of duty . .	William Crawford	Defendant to pay office-fee.
David Cranstoun . .	,,	Withholding wages	Jacob Mills. . .	Defendant to pay wages forthwith.
Ann, Sarah, and Susannah.	,,	Breach of contract .	Michael O'Reilly	Each defendant to forfeit 10 days' wages to estate.
John	,,	Ditto, in neglecting his ordinary duty	Henry E. Gale. .	Defendant to forfeit four days' wages.

(Signed)

WILLIAM WALKER, J. P., and Stipendary Magistrate.
G. BLACK, J. P.

Names of Persons Convicted in the Parish of Saint Mary, as idle and disorderly Persons, or as Rogues, or as Vagabonds, or as incorrigible Rogues, from 1st to 31st October, 1840.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have entered into Contract of Services in the Parish of Saint Mary, between 1st and 31st October, 1840.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have been Punished in the Parish of Saint Mary, for Non-performance of any Contract of Services, between 1st and 31st October, 1840.

Date.	Names.	Offences.	At whose Instance.	Amount and Nature of Punishment.
1st	Hester	Breach of Contract	Wm. Hamilton . .	10 days' hard labour.
3rd	Francis Crichton .	*Ditto	Edward G. Bryan .	Fined £10.
,,	Joanna	Ditto	Samuel Tucker . .	Ditto 11s. 3d. to estate and fee.

(Signed)

D. DAVEY.
L. GREME.

* This is an erroneous entry: the offence not being the non-performance of a contract of service, which is not punishable by fine; but an offence against a clause of the Colonial Act which prohibits the hiring by one person of a labourer who is at the time under contract of service to another. The magistrates have no power to mitigate the penalty.

Names of Persons who have been Punished in the Parish of Saint Mary, for Non-performance of any Contract of Services, between 1st and 30th November, 1840.

ANTIGUA.

Date.	Names.	Offences.	At whose Instance.	Amount and Nature of Punishments.
7th.	Jas. Goodwin .	Breach of Contract	Robt. Joseph . .	Ordered to pay 2½ days' wages, and fee.
14th.	Jos. Weston . .	Ditto	Jos. Hunter . . .	Admonished; fee remitted.
"	Sarah	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto.
"	Eve	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto.
"	Sarah	Ditto	Jas. Goodwin . .	Ordered to turn to work, or to be ejected on 21st inst.
"	Ellen	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto, ditto.
"	Madhass	Ditto	Ditto	Forfeit 3 days of estate; fee remitted.
"	Letty	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto 6 days . . ditto.
"	Kitty	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto 6 days . . ditto.
"	Margaret	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto 6 days . . ditto.
"	Joaneh.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto 6 days . . ditto.
"	Mary Ann	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto 5 days . . ditto.
"	Peggy	Ditto	Ditto	Ordered to be ejected on 16th inst.

Names of Persons who have entered into Contract of Services in the Parish of Saint Mary, between 1st and 30th November, 1840.

Nil.

Names of Persons Convicted in the Parish of Saint Mary, as idle and disorderly Persons, or as Rogues, or as Vagabonds, or as incorrigible Rogues, from 1st to 30th November, 1840.

Nil.

(Signed)

D. DAVEY,
L. GREENE.

Names of Persons who have been punished in the Parish of Saint Mary, for Non-performance of any Contract of Services, between 1st and 31st December, 1840.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have entered into Contract of Services in the Parish of Saint Mary, between 1st and 31st December, 1840.

Date.	Name.	Extent of Services.	Name of Estate.	Name of Employer.
18th. .	Daniel	Twelve Months . .	York's	John Ramsay .

Names of Persons Convicted in the Parish of Saint Mary, as idle and disorderly Persons, or as Rogues, or as Vagabonds, or as Incorrigible Rogues, from 1st to 31st December, 1840.

Date.	Name.	Offences and ground of Conviction.	Extent of Punishment.	Name of Complainant.
19th .	Geo. Collins . . .	Vagrant, found in the woods and no means of subsisting himself.	One month's hard labour.	Kenn B. Osborn.

(Signed)

D. DAVEY,
L. GREENE.

ANTIGUA.

(No. 13.)

No. 2.

No. 2.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor MACPHAIL, Administering the General Government of the Leeward Islands, to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

Government House, Antigua, 29th May, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Reports and Returns of the Stipendiary Magistrates in this island to the month of April last.

As regards the conduct of the labourers of the agricultural class, in their relations with their employers, these Reports will be found, I conceive, very satisfactory. There has not been any disinclination to labour at rates of wages which have been freely offered, and under the recent state of the produce market could be well afforded; nor do I believe that, where judicious and conciliatory management has been adopted, there has been generally any difficulty in securing continuous and effective labour.

There are many points in the character and habits of the peasantry adverted to in these Reports, which it would be most desirable to see improved; but they are not so much subjects for legislative coercion and restraint, as for the less authoritative, but more efficient process of education and religious instruction.

Encl. 1. in No. 2.

Enclosure 1, in No. 2.

Sir,

St. John's, Antigua, 20th May, 1841.

I do myself the honour of submitting to your Excellency, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, an Abstract Return of the cases heard before Mr. Justice Black and myself at the Police Station, English Harbour, for the months of January and February, March and April, last past.

The general conduct of the labourers within the district in which I act, so far as regards their relations with their employers, may be fairly estimated by the number of individual cases brought before us for breaches of contract; these amount in the four months to thirty-six, out of a very extensive population: but it is to be observed, that the whole of these do not apply to the agricultural class.

There has been among the estates' labourers an increased tendency—though not to a great extent—to absenting themselves from labour without permission, or even explanation or excuse; and I am not prepared to account for this otherwise than by attributing it to the waywardness or capriciousness of character by which very many of these people are distinguished. Some seemed to have considered it sufficient to ask for a week or whatever period they might desire, and without even waiting for a reply have taken the time to themselves; others did not observe even this ceremony—and in but few instances was anything like a sufficient ground adduced for desiring leave. Cases have also occurred wherein the parties had actually employed themselves while thus absent on other estates. These, with disputes as to wages, appear to me to be the most prominent features calling for notice under the head of the relations of employers and labourers. It is just to add, that the dry weather which has again prevailed at the very critical season subsequent to the date of my last Report, may have had its share in increasing the desire to check those irregularities in the discharge of ordinary and allotted work, which, being perhaps in a more favourable season of less importance, would be allowed to pass without coming under the cognizance of the magistrate.

But a still more serious subject of comment is afforded by the numerous cases of a description to which I have formerly had occasion to advert, namely, riots and disturbances amongst the labourers themselves, most frequently on Sundays, and commonly proceeding from jealousy, or from disputes occurring during the preceding week. In the course of these contests matters usually proceed from the unmeasured use of language, so disgusting that it would not be credited unless heard repeated on oath, to struggling, blows and wounds, necessitating the interference of the rural constables, and creating alarm and confusion on the whole estate. In other instances these or similar scenes arise from a resort now becoming too general, to the dances which are continually being held on various estates in the neighbourhood of English Harbour, and where the refuse of its society, there is too much reason to believe, are freely admitted. Hence some of the complaints of trespass under the XIVth Clause of the Act against Malicious Injuries to Property, which will be found inserted in the Return. I know that the ministers of religion sincerely deprecate this state of things, and do all in their power to counteract it; and, in fact, we derive no small support in the exercise of our authority from being enabled to rely on the cordial co-operation of the many excellent persons of that profession who have charge of congregations within the district. To the persevering efforts made in the cause of religious instruction, we can alone look for the so-much-needed improvement of the character of the peasantry in the respect above noted; and therefore, as regards the adult race, I am not sanguine: but I sincerely hope that the moral training now bestowed upon the young will tend to rescue them from the liability to such a charge. Perhaps I ought to remark that the parties brought before us for offences of the above description, are not unfrequently vouched for by the managers as among the best and most effective labourers

upon the estate ; and, with rare exceptions, they manifest contrition for their faults, and behave respectfully when before us.

The children of the labourers would be, I am assured, readily employed upon the estates : but there yet exists a degree of disinclination on the part of parents to this species of employment for their offspring, which will doubtless give way in proportion to the weakening of the old association connected with field labour. The Juvenile Offenders' Asylum is a sufficient proof of the advantage of training boys to agricultural employment ; the few therein contained are eagerly sought after ; they are constantly engaged, and apparently delight in their allotted work ; clean, healthy, and cheerful in their appearance, it is obvious that society and themselves are alike benefited by the arrangement, which leads us to regret that there should be not more of the number scattered throughout the country, deriving the advantages of this institution ; and that it should be in the power of the magistrates to confine them there but for three months, a period so brief that they are thrown again upon the world at the very moment as it were when impressions for good may be just taking possession of their minds.

But few labourers have emigrated since the commencement of the year ; and these at distant intervals : nothing like combination or an indiscriminate desire to emigrate having been at all manifested.

In addition to the regular sittings at English Harbour, I have attended at Buckley's, whenever there have been complaints to be heard ; but those which have occurred present no circumstance of sufficient importance to render it necessary to add to the foregoing observations.

In respect of the other topics of enquiry, to which these reports are directed to have reference, I am not prepared to state any thing differing from the information contained in my previous reports.

I beg to forward herewith the usual answers to the four queries circulated by Lord Glenelg in relation to the administration of the Contract and Vagrant Acts, for the respective months to which this report applies.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

WILLIAM WALKER,
J. P., and Stipendiary Magistrate.

ABSTRACT RETURN of CONVICTIONS and CASES DISMISSED before William Walker and George Black, Esqrs.—1841.

NATURE AND DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCES.	January.			February.			March.			April.		
	Conv.	Dism.	Total.	Conv.	Dism.	Total.	Conv.	Dism.	Total.	Conv.	Dism.	Total.
Assault and Battery	3	12	15	2	5	7	3	12	15	4	6	10
Police Act, including furiously and improperly Riding and Driving; Carters riding on Carts; Carts not properly marked; Affrays and Nuisances unsuitable for the public Streets or Highways	16	18	34	10	15	25	3	14	17	7	32	39
Malicious Injury to Property, XII. Clause	5	3	8	4	3	7	2	..	2	7	1	8
Ditto XIV. „ Trespass	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	4
Contract Act	3	1	4	5	2	7	9	2	11	13	1	14
Larceny Act, including Fraud, Embezzlement, and unlawful Detention of Property	..	1	1	..	4	4	..	6	6	1	5	6
Juvenile Offenders' Asylum Act	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	1
Fire Arms' Licence Act	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vagrant Act	..	2	2	2	..	2	1	1	2	..	..	..
Malicious Injury to the Person	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nuisance, by obstructing the Highway (bound over to Sessions)	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cattle Trespass Act, No. 97	..	..	..	..	3	3	2	..	2	..	..	..
Average of Four Months, 66-1/4.	29	43	72	23	32	55	21	35	56	33	49	82

Enclosure 2, in No. 2.

Sir,

Antigua, April 17, 1841.

I HAVE nothing worthy of particular notice to lay before your Excellency respecting the conduct of the agricultural labourers since my last Report ; at present all hands are busily occupied in taking off the crop, which from the continued severe drought will, I fear, fall considerably short of that of last year.

I have not yet been able to obtain the Quarterly Police Returns, in consequence of the police serjeant's sickness, but hope to forward them in the course of the ensuing week.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

L. GREME.

His Excellency Major Macphail,
Administering the Government, Leeward Islands.

ANTIGUA.

Enclosure 3, in No. 2.

Encl. 3, in No. 2.

(A.)

ANTIGUA POLICE OFFICE, ENGLISH HARBOUR.

Names of Persons who have been ejected, from 1st to 31st day of January, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have been committed as idle and disorderly, from 1st to 31st day of January, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have entered into contracts of service, from 1st to 31st day of January, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have been punished for the non-performance of any contract of service, from 1st to 31st day of January, 1841.

Names of Persons against whom we have pronounced Sentence, or made Order for inflicting any Punishment for the Non-performance of Contract or Service.	Date of such Sentence or Order.	Grounds on which such Sentence or Order proceeded.	Names of Persons whom Information or Instance such Sentence or Order was made.	Nature and Amount of the Punishment awarded.
Michael	5th January	Neglect of duty as cattle-keeper.	John D. Cranstoun	One month's hard labour in the House of Correction.
Precilla	12th January	Neglect of duty .	Rowland S. Ffrye	Forfeit ten days' wages
John Coppy	12th January	Neglect of duty .	Rowland S. Ffrye	Forfeit three days' labour

(Signed)

G. BLACK, J. P.

WILLIAM WALKER, J. P., Stipendiary Magistrate.

Names of Persons who have been ejected, from 1st to 28th day of February, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have been committed as idle and disorderly, from 1st to 28th day of February, 1841.

Names of Persons committed as Idle and Disorderly Persons.	Names of Persons committed as Rogues and Vagabonds and as Incurrible Rogues.	Date of every such Conviction.	Names of the Informer, and the ground on which the Conviction proceeded.	The length of Time for which they were to continue in force.
	Jane Jeremiah . .	2nd February	The Assistant Inspector of Police.	One calendar month hard labour.
	Thomas Lightfoot .	2nd February	The Assistant Inspector of Police.	Ditto, ditto.
			Habitual Wanderers without visible means of subsistence, and being unable to give good accounts of themselves.	

Names of Persons who have entered into contracts of service, from 1st to 28th day of February, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have been punished for the non-performance of any contract of service, from 1st to 28th day of February, 1841.

ANTIGUA.

Names of Persons against whom we have pronounced Sentence, or made Order for inflicting any Punishment for the Non-performance of Contract or Service.	Date of such Sentence or Order.	Grounds on which such Sentence or Order proceeded.	Names of Persons whom Information or Instance such Sentence or Order was made.	Nature and Amount of the Punishment awarded.
Rachael	2d February	Absenting herself without leave.	Rowland S. Frye	Forfeit ten days' wages; fee remitted.
John Sheppard . .	9th February	Wilful neglect of duty as cattle keeper.	William Clayton .	Ditto three days' wages, ditto.
Eleanor	15th February	Neglect of duty .	William Clayton .	Pay office fees, and reprimanded.
William Henry . .	23rd February	Breach of Contract	John Figurella fisherman.	Ordered to return and work out 30 days' notice.
Joshua	23d February	Neglect of duty .	John Hudson . .	Forfeit three days' wages; fee remitted.

(Signed) G. BLACK, J. P.
WILLIAM WALKER, J. P., Stipendary Magistrate.

Names of Persons who have been ejected, from 1st to 31st day of March, 1841.
Nil.

Names of Persons who have been committed as idle and disorderly, from 1st to the 31st day of March, 1841.

Names of Persons committed as Idle and Disorderly Persons.	Names of Persons committed as Rogues and Vagabonds, and as Incurrible Rogues.	Date of every such Conviction.	Name of the Informer, and the ground on which the Conviction proceeded.	The length of Time for which they were to continue in force.
	Sam. Cooper, R. & V.	9th March .	John Roden . . Being found on the premises of the informer for an admitted unlawful purpose, viz., with the view of stealing certain pine boards.	Two calendar months.

Names of Persons who have entered into contracts of service, from 1st to 31st day of March, 1841.
Nil.

Names of Persons who have been punished for the non-performance of any contract of service, from 1st to 31st day of March, 1841.

Names of Persons against whom we have pronounced Sentence, or made Order for inflicting any Punishment for the Non-performance of Contract or Service.	Date of such Sentence or Order.	Grounds on which such Sentence or Order proceeded.	Names of Persons whom Information or Instance such Sentence or Order was made.	Nature and Amount of the Punishment awarded.
Joseph Nanton . .	2nd March .	Neglect of duty .	David M. Hoy .	Forfeit three days' wages, and pay fees 4s. 6d.
David Benjamin . .	9th March .	Withholding four days' wages, 7s. 10½d.	James George .	Ordered to pay wages forthwith.
Maria	23rd March .	Absenting herself from work without leave.	John Hudson .	Forfeit four days' wages, fee remitted.
Margaret	23d March .	Absenting herself from work without leave.	John Hudson .	Forfeit seven days' wages, fee remitted.
William Mack . .	30th March .	Neglect of duty .	George S. Bladen	Reprimanded, fee remitted.
Emanuel Gordon, Harriet, and Fanny.	30th March .	Neglect of duty .	George S. Bladen	Each forfeit four days' wages, fees remitted.
Elizabeth	9th March .	Absence without leave.	John P. O'Reilly	Forfeit seven days' wages, fee remitted.

(Signed) G. BLACK, J. P.
WILLIAM WALKER, J. P., Stipendary Magistrate.

PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE

ANTIGUA.

Names of Persons who have been ejected, from 1st to 30th day of April, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have been committed as idle and disorderly, from 1st to 30th day of April, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have entered into contracts of service, from 1st to 30th day of April, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have been punished for the non-performance of any contract of service, from 1st to 30th day of April, 1841.

Names of Persons against whom we have pronounced Sentence, or made Order for inflicting any Punishment for the Non-performance of Contract or Service.	Date of such Sentence or Order.	Grounds on which such Sentence or Order proceeded.	Names of Persons whom Information or Instance such Sentence or Order was made.	Nature and Amount of the Punishment awarded.
Mary Ann, Phœbe, Bashaeba, and Catherize.	6th April.	Neglect of duty as labourers under contract.	Henry Edw. Gale	Each forfeit six days' wages, and pay office fees.
Tom Gloud	13th April	Breach of contract	John Hudson . .	Forfeit seven days' wages, and pay office fees.
Joshua	13th April	Absenting himself from work without leave.	James Salmon .	Committed to the House of Correction for ten days hard labour.
Adam and Sue . . .	20th April	Neglect of duty .	George S. Bladen	Forfeit 14 days' wages and pay office fees each.
Benjamin Ralph . .	27th April	Neglect of duty A serious offence in improperly using a valuable horse of his master's.	Captain Burt, R. Eng.	House of Correction for 1 month hard labour.
Phœbe	26th April	Breach of contract	John Dun Crans-toun.	Forfeit six days' wages, and pay fees.
Subella	26th April	Breach of contract	John Dun Crans-toun.	Forfeit ten days' wages, and pay fees.
Ned	27th April	Breach of contract	Thomas Tanner .	House of Correction for thirty days.
Samuel	27th April	Knowingly employing labourers while under contract to Matthew's Estate.	Thomas Tanner .	Fined £10; the penalty fixed by the Act, and which does not vest the Magistrates with any discretionary power to mitigate the sentence.

(Signed)

G. BLACK, J. P.

WILLIAM WALKER, J. P. and Stipendiary Magistrate.

Enclosure 4, in No. 2.

Encl. 4, in No. 2.

Names of Persons who have entered into contracts of Services in the Parish of Saint Mary, between 1st January and 31st, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons Convicted in the Parish of Saint Mary under Vagrant Act, from 1st January to 31st, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have been Punished in the Parish of Saint Mary for Non-Performance of any Contract of Services, between 1st and 31st January, 1841.

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Date.	Names.	Offences.	At whose Instance.	Nature of Punishment.
23rd.	Paul . . .	Breach of contract .	William Kelly .	Abate 3 days' wages to estate, and office fee.
,,	Anthony . .	Ditto	Ditto . . .	Admonished and paying office fee.
,,	John Glasgow	Ditto	Ditto . . .	,, , , ,

Names of Persons Convicted in the Parish of Saint Mary under Vagrant Act, from 1st to 28th February, 1841.

Nil.

(Signed)

D. DAVEY.
L. GRÈME.

Names of Persons who have been Punished in the Parish of St. Mary, for Non-performance on any Contract of Services, between 1st and 28th February, 1841.

Date.	Names.	Offences.	At whose Instance.	Nature of Punishment.
6th .	James Goodwin.	Refusing to pay wages	Edward, labourer	Ordered to pay 6s. 9d., and fee remitted.
,,	Ditto . .	Ditto	Susannah . .	Ditto . 8s. . . ditto.
,,	Ditto . .	Ditto	Sally Dow . .	Ditto . 4s. 6d. . ditto.
,,	Jane . . .	Breach of contract .	Samuel Tucker .	Ditto . twelve days' wages for loss of services.
11th .	Little Samy .	Ditto	Ditto . . .	Fined 4s. 6d., and office fees 4s. 6d.

Names of Persons who have entered into Contract of Services in the Parish of St. Mary, between 1st and 20th February, 1841.

Nil.

(Signed)

D. DAVEY.
L. GRÈME.

Names of Persons who have been Punished in the Parish of St. Mary, for Non-performance on any Contract of Services, between 1st and 31st March, 1841.

Date.	Names.	Offences.	At whose Instance.	Nature of Punishment.
6th .	Will . . .	Breach of contract .	Kean B. Osborn .	Ordered to abate 7s. 6d. for five days' loss of time, and office fees.
,,	Fanny . . .	Ditto	Ditto . . .	Ordered to go to work on Monday next, or to quit said estate. Fees remitted.
20th .	Thomas . .	Ditto	Samuel Tucker .	Ejected from estate without fee.
,,	Joseph Hunter	Ditto	Paul, labourer .	Ordered to balance of 7s. 3d. to labourer, and fee remitted.
,,	Paul . . .	Ditto	Joseph Hunter .	Ordered to abate 8s. from his wages. Fee remitted.
,,	John Spencer .	Ditto	Ditto . . .	Admonished not to repeat the offence. Fee remitted.
,,	Mingo . . .	Ditto	Ditto . . .	Ditto ditto.
,,	James . . .	Ditto	Ditto . . .	Ditto ditto.
,,	Hannibal . .	Ditto	Ditto . . .	Ditto ditto.
,,	George Collins	Ditto	Ditto . . .	Ditto ditto.
,,	Gatty . . .	Ditto	Ditto . . .	Ditto ditto.
,,	Ritta . . .	Ditto	Ditto . . .	Ditto ditto.

Names of Persons who have entered into Contract of Services in the Parish of St. Mary, between 1st and 31st March, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons Convicted in the Parish of Saint Mary under Vagrant Act, from 1st to 31st March, 1841.

Nil.

(Signed)

D. DAVEY.
L. GRÈME.

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(No. 20.)

No. 3.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor MACPHAIL, Administering the General Government of the Leeward Islands, to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

Government House, Antigua, August 26, 1841.

I DO myself the honour of enclosing to your Lordship herewith the Reports and Returns of the Stipendiary Magistrates in this Island to the month of June inclusive.

Enclosure 1, in No. 3.

Sir,

St. John's, Antigua, July 24, 1841.

Encl. 1, in No. 3.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency, for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, my Report as a stipendiary magistrate of this island, for the months of May and June.

Since the date of my last Report, have been furnished, in common with other stipendiary magistrates, with an additional series of Heads of Enquiry, circulated by the Secretary of State, to which our attention is more especially to be directed in our future observations: with the exception however of the last, the subjects of these have always occupied a prominent place in my Reports, and probably in those of other magistrates under this Government, having been comprised in a series of questions circulated by Sir William Colebrooke, preparatory to the termination of the apprenticeship in 1838. I advert to this chiefly as explanatory why I shall be unable to submit on the present occasion much that will be new, or that will vary from the statements periodically furnished on former occasions. It may nevertheless be useful, and expedient to exhibit a brief summary of the impressions at which I have arrived in respect to the particulars adverted to in the recently circulated queries.

His Excellency Major John Macphail,
Lieutenant-Governor, Administering the General Government,
&c. &c. &c.

First.—General character and condition of the peasantry; noticing any changes observable, since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners, habits, or tastes, in the rate of mortality, or in the nature and frequency of offences.

It is to be remarked, that apprenticeship never existed here as an intermediate or transition stage, from slavery to freedom; and not having resided in the West Indies previously to emancipation, I am not qualified, from personal observation, to draw a contrast between the past and present condition and character of the peasantry; fortunately, however, in this island this is of less moment, both because the system of management during slavery, being such as fitted the labourers in a peculiar manner for the reception at once of unrestricted freedom, necessarily infers the probability of a less remarkable change being produced in them than in others, and because, from the abundant sources of information on this point which are open, and the facility with which they are accessible, but little difficulty can be experienced in coming to a correct conclusion. Perhaps no more striking proof can be adduced of the ready adaptation of the labouring population of Antigua to a state directly the reverse of that in which from birth they had existed, the one being a state of coercion, the other comparatively of licence, than the simple fact that, in one moment, 30,000 slaves became free without the smallest tendency to popular outbreak—without the occurrence of any individual instance of turbulence or outrage: and more than this, that seven years have now elapsed, exhibiting the same tranquil course of conduct on their part as a body, while the safe keeping of the peace of the country has been entrusted to a police force of 24 men, and a body of perhaps of 250 rural constables themselves, in nearly every instance estates labourers, and for the last three years there has not even been a single company of militia in existence.

Civilization, however, it must not be forgotten is with them but in progress yet; and it ought not therefore to surprise us if the debasing effects of their former servile condition are still in operation, to prove that caution, patience, and zealous watchfulness, are as now necessary on the part of all who are in authority over them, in order to conduct the great and unparalleled experiment of which they were the chief objects to a successful issue. Nor can it be said with truth, that the influence of the relations created by slavery has altogether ceased, or has been effectually eradicated from the breasts of those who then exercised almost exclusive power, but who are now themselves equally subservient to the law with the former serfs. Yet, in this respect, much praise is justly to be ascribed to the class of which I speak; for whatever may be said of individual instances to the contrary, they have in general manifested a ready and cheerful willingness to meet and fall in with the requirements of the new order of things, not less consistent with sound policy than creditable to their personal feelings of justice and humanity.

While very many of the labourers have, in the period which has elapsed since their emancipation, exerted themselves in the most praiseworthy manner to improve their condition, both morally and physically, others who have paid equal attention to the latter branch are yet addicted to the besotted and mischievous superstitions of which the origin is to be traced to the benighted regions of Africa. It is scarcely credible, adverting to the extent and general success of the exertions of the ministers of religion of all the denominations existing in the island, that the practice of obeah should be still prevalent; and it is not to be conceived, except by actual observation, how fearful is the dread inspired by the suspicion or belief that this art has been put in operation against any individual. No

reasoning however sound, no arguments however plain, have the smallest effect; and unless the malific influence be supposed to be counteracted by similar agency, the victim pines and wastes away, a prey to undefined terror and exaggerated apprehension. So serious, indeed, have been the effects of this superstition, that formerly the practisers were liable to the punishment of death, a law open to so much perversion, and so futile in checking the evil it attempted to cure, that it is matter of surprise it should have so long remained a part of the West Indian codes. As in England, however, with respect to witchcraft, so here in regard to obeah, a more just appreciation of the subject at length prevails, and the detected "obeah doctor" would now make his appearance amongst the other classes of "regues and vagabonds" who prey on the community, instead of earning their livelihood by honest means. The subject is after all not without its difficulties: by inflicting the extreme penalty of the law on practisers of obeah, those subjected to the influence of the class were only confirmed in their belief that supernatural powers were really possessed by them, of which they could be only deprived by death. On the other hand, it is not easy to effect the detection of any of these parties under the present state of the law, for the terror which they inspire prevents others from bearing testimony to their arts, dreading the consequences of their revengeful feelings when released from confinement. Education alone, therefore, would seem to be the means peculiarly fitted for the improvement of the negroes in this as in many other respects.

The custom of "waking" the dead, is another apparent relic of ancient superstition still common, though probably more from the facilities which such meetings afford to intemperance and debauchery, than from any associations of a religious character. They constitute a fruitful source of quarrels with their usual accompaniments, and are the constant and deserved themes of reprobation by the ministers of the Gospel and the magistracy.

I have had occasion heretofore to advert to the common habit of using obscene and disgusting language on the smallest provocation or excitement, a vice not confined to the very ignorant or notoriously depraved, but which is but too often also heard from the lips of those boasting of the possession of "church privileges." There is also a prevalent and lamentable disregard of truth, and mutual recriminations on this point, and interchanged accusations of perjury, which scarcely fail to mark every day's judicial proceedings, but too painfully attest the little confidence which they repose in each other's faith. In the word of a white person, however, they readily trust, and this will have a natural tendency to raise the standard of veracity amongst themselves.

Since emancipation, the cause of morality and civilization has received powerful support from the people being generally led to form fixed connexions; but this has been nevertheless subjected to certain drawbacks, in consequence of the previously degraded state of the female sex, which unfitted them for a right perception of domestic duties, and because some who had during slavery been united by a religious ceremony by the ministers of the Moravian and Wesleyan congregations found on the abrogation of slavery, that such a tie had no legal force or binding efficacy, and availed themselves of this facility to form other connexions. In order, however, to discourage this disreputable conduct as much as possible, the ministers of the Established Church, by whom alone since the emancipation, marriages could be legally solemnized, resolved in no case to marry to another party either a man or a woman who had been previously living together as man and wife under the sanction above described. In the nine years preceding freedom, the whole number of marriages of slaves solemnized by the ministers of the Established Church did not exceed 1,150; in addition to these, however, were those unions by the Moravian and Wesleyan ministers, which became legally null on the 1st of August, 1834. Since that period, the whole number of marriages celebrated is as under:—

1824.	1825.	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.
202	476	329	246	316	468	554

It may not be uninteresting to contrast this table with the numbers for the six preceding years, namely—

1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.
29	27	46	44	56	69

Of these, the greater part are estates' labourers, and although there is much reason to fear that many have entered the marriage state without due reflection, and that many prove unfaithful to their vows, there are, on the other hand, very many who are living well together, and by the consistency of whose example it may be anticipated that much good will be done in their several spheres. Exclusion from church privileges, and forfeiture of the benefits of their friendly societies, are found to be efficacious instruments in the hands of the clergy for repressing a tendency to irregular habits.

It is believed by those competent to form an opinion, that female prostitution has not increased since emancipation; and if this be so, it may be fairly assumed, that the reverse is the case. I am inclined to consider that this statement is correct, because there is no doubt that a great improvement has taken place in the habits and morals of the class from which encouragement to such a vice was most naturally to be expected.

Attendance at the various places of worship on the part of the people in general, is regular and increasing: but it is not so much from this habit, as from the daily and persevering efforts of the ministers of religion in private, that effect upon the character of the people is to be looked for. By far the larger portion of the labouring population are members of the Moravian church.

It will be readily concluded, from what precedes, that excepting petty thefts, abusive language, and assaults, the vices and failings of the peasantry or labouring classes, are not of a description to which positive laws would apply, but that the cure or amelioration of them must be left to time, and to the influence of those unobtrusive but efficient means, of which the diffusion of sound religious instruction and the gradual acquisition of a permanent interest in the soil, are perhaps the readiest examples; for by them the character of the people cannot fail to be elevated and purified: those who possess property themselves, will learn to respect that of others, and the precepts of religion when understood and cherished as the guide of life, will of necessity teach forbearance, charity, and good-will.

The character of the people is marked by an absence of instances of great crimes, a violation of those natural and primary laws which are implanted in the human breast by the Deity, and operate as it were instinctively to point out to man what he is to follow, and what to avoid. Cases distinguished by aggravated violence, are for the most part traceable to the immediate impulse of passion, rather than to the dictates of deliberate revenge; and it may be worth while to observe particularly, that infanticide never was prevalent here, and, so far as I am aware, no instance of it whatever has

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occurred for many years. In the time of slavery, indeed, the circumstances must have been otherwise: I have traced in the records, and have been told of cases of murder by open assault or by secret poisoning, of arson, and of highway robbery, but such are now not to be found in the calendar of convictions. Yet there was lately one instance of an attempt to poison an overseer, by a labourer, which failed of such an issue from defectiveness of legal proof, rather than from any room for doubt as to the prisoner's guilt. That great advantage has been derived to the community in respect of the diminution of grave offences from emancipation, there can be no reasonable doubt, since the relation between master and slave of necessity furnished the latter with ample time for nourishing his revenge, whatever might have been the origin, as well as the most available opportunities for giving it effect. On the contrary, if from any cause dislike accrues between the servant and his employer, separation is easy; the one selects another labourer or domestic, the other seeks a new master, and the source of difference is forgotten.

The peasantry are not addicted to intemperance: they appear to me to be an astute as well as sensitive race: they manifest the possession of the former quality in their dealings with each other as with their employers, and they generally refuse to enter into a bargain, however apparently attractive, if they are in any doubt as to its turning out profitably; while on the other hand, they are not a little indignant if they find that they have miscalculated the result, and yet may be compelled to perform their contract. In most of such cases however which have come before me and my colleague, they have given way to our remonstrances and reasonings, and instead of suffering the punishment which awaited them for a breach of their engagement, they have consented to fulfil it; because we advised them to do so. It is perhaps not very wise of parties to insist on pushing matters to this extremity with their labourers, for although they may be once so caught in the meshes of the law, it would not be easy to induce them to run a similar risk with the same employer. They manifest also generally all the deference which can be fairly expected towards their superiors, but they attach great value to the exhibition of proper feelings towards themselves: for my own part I have always found them, speaking of course of the mass, and particularly of the peasantry, respectful and obliging, and I have heard others remark on their superiority in these respects to the same grade of the community in other islands. There is also a visible difference between their manner and that of the majority of labourers in town, who with a certain degree of independence in their position, acquire the habits common to their class, appearing careless to please, and impatient of control; any further remarks on the habits and tastes of the peasantry, will be perhaps more appropriately reserved for the answer to the sixth query.

With respect to the rate of mortality, nothing can be offered that will be at all satisfactory, because no census has been taken since 1821, and because although the Registers of Burials have been doubtless kept for some years past with all the accuracy attainable by the respective ministers, yet local circumstances as well as former habits render it probable that burials both of infants and of aged persons have taken place, which have not come to their knowledge, so that no deduction entitled to entire confidence can be drawn from the data in my possession. Neither is there any uniformity of opinion as to the increase or diminution of the population since 1834, the most opposite views being entertained on this subject. I subjoin, however, a Table of Burials from 1837 to 1840 inclusive, extracted from the Blue Books of those years, and which comprehends the Returns of the Moravians and Wesleyans, as well as of the Church of England:—

1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.
823	683	759	931

It may be proper to observe that, in 1837 and 1839, yellow fever prevailed in the island, but less so in the latter than in the former year.

On the head of increase or diminution of offences, it might be sufficient to state what has been repeatedly advanced on former occasions, and what I have always heard consistently maintained by those qualified to give an opinion, that they have really decreased since emancipation, although from the abolition of all domestic jurisdiction, if such a term may be permitted, and the consequent bringing under the notice of the magistrates every offence, however trifling, it might be supposed that the reverse was the case. On the 1st of July, there were in the House of Correction altogether 53 prisoners, including those under sentence of the Court of Queen's Bench, and those committed under summary jurisdiction. Of this number 27 were for breaches of contract, for malicious injuries to property, and for vagrancy. As this date immediately followed the Court of Sessions for June, a more favourable period might have been selected to illustrate this position, but this will sufficiently prove that neither the proportion nor nature of offences are very serious, when the population of the island, at the lowest estimate, is rated at 30,000, and is probably much more.

I beg to insert in this place my usual abstract of offences heard at the English Harbour police station, before Mr. Justice Black and myself, for the months of May and June, remarking at the same time that I have also attended at Buckley's, as occasion might require.

	May.			June.		
	Convict.	Dismiss.	Total.	Convict.	Dismiss.	Total.
Contract Act	3	6	9	8	11	19
Police Act	10	15	25	5	16	21
Felony (committed for trial)	1	1	2	3	0	3
Assault and Battery	9	3	12	8	3	11
Trespass, (XIV. clause)	2	5	7	2	1	3
Mutiny Act	2	0	2	..	..	..
Malicious Injury to Property (XII. and XV. clauses) . . . . .	..	..	..	2	0	2
Cattle Trespass	0	1	1	..	..	..
Vagrancy . . . . .	..	..	..	1	0	1
Bound over to keep the Peace . . . . .	..	0	1	0	0	3
			59			68

Average of these two months 61, being rather less than that of the corresponding months last year.

I also forward herewith the usual replies to the four queries circulated by Lord Glenelg, and which will sufficiently illustrate the nature of the complaints under the Acts for regulating contracts between employers and labourers.

I do not know that the condition of the peasantry could be in any essential respect better than it is, if we except the uncertain tenure on which the estates' labourers hold their domiciles, but this is an evil rapidly giving way before the force of circumstances. The day's work is calculated at nine hours, and they have on some estates one day in the week, on others one in the fortnight, besides Sunday, for their own use, although not granted to them by law, and if they prefer working for hire on that day, extra pay is granted to them. They have residence, with ground for cultivation, medical attendance of the highest character, the privilege of collecting grass, and, in many cases, brushwood, and of gathering fruit on those estates which possess any trees; also of rearing feathered stock, swine and sheep, and also goats to any extent, all without reference to the rate of daily wages, so that calculating the average daily wages of an adult labourer at only nine-pence sterling, (and as they are open to employment by the job, they can earn much more in the same time), and supposing him to work five days in the week, the annual earnings of an able-bodied family, consisting of a husband, wife, and two children capable of taking the share usually allotted to their class, cannot be fairly estimated at less than fifty pounds sterling per annum, and as they pay neither rent nor taxes, and in case of sickness or accident, may have, and certainly ought to have, the Friendly Society to fall back upon their physical condition cannot be pronounced other than satisfactory, and such as must have a tendency to increase population. The subjoined memorandum of the prices usually paid for articles brought by the peasantry to the town markets for sale may not be without use; it is to be remembered that the prices asked are often higher.

	s.	d.	s.	d.	
Turkeys, each	6	0	to	12	0 sterling.
Ducks, each	2	9	to	3	0 „
Fowls (Capon), each	2	0	to	2	6 „
Small Chickens, each	1	0	to	1	6 „
Guinea Birds, each	2	8	to	3	0 „
Eggs, eight or nine for	1	0			„
Milk, per quart	0	5			„
Grass, per bundle, no fixed weight	0	3	to	0	5 „
To which may be added					
Beef and Pork (native) per lb.	0	8			„
American Beef „	0	11			„
Mutton (native) „	0	11	to	1	0 „
Fish „	0	5			„

Second.—Relations between the peasantry and the proprietors, adverting especially to the condition of tenancy on estates, to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders, to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

There has been lately introduced on one or two estates within my district a system of renting out the cottages to labourers, allowing them of course to work where they please, and by a sort of tacit understanding waiving in such cases the operation of the Contract Act altogether, although paying them weekly when working on the estate at a specified rate of daily wages. Such a tenancy is clearly not summarily determinable by the mere will of the landlord; and on the other hand, the latter has no remedy against a tenant in arrear, except by seizing his furniture. I do not think, therefore, that such a system will be ultimately found beneficial to either party: it does not possess the indisputable feature of conferring on the labourer a fixed interest in the soil, affording the most powerful incentive to industry, respect for the laws, and keeping families together in the place of their birth.

New villages are rising up in every direction: it is found to be by far the most eligible mode of disposing of the less fertile portions of estates, which, by being cultivated in small portions and by spade (or rather by hoe), husbandry may thus yield more profitable returns than otherwise. The houses building on these locations are of a very superior description, being generally built of stone and shingled, much improving the general appearance of the country. These communities being chiefly composed of labourers, it is obvious that according to the strict legal definition of the term they are acquiring freeholds to a large extent; but the rights attached to that character being limited in this island by statute to the possession of ten acres of land, or a rental of £20 per annum, and by resolution of the House of Assembly, as regards the possession of the elective franchise, still further in towns, to the possession of a building measuring thirty feet by fifteen, they have no influence as freeholders in the community. Most of these persons continue to work on the estates, either as artisans or field labourers, and many become possessed of a horse and cart, which they let on hire as carriers, or for any other service offering suitable returns. These changes have probably affected the nature rather than the quantity of labour supplied for the cultivation of the staple products of the colony. It is obvious that in proportion as the job or task work system prevails, there will be a less continuous and sustained system of labour afforded; because such persons as undertake these tasks will confine themselves to those which yield the largest profit: hence certain descriptions of work will be less regularly performed; and so far as I am enabled to judge, this seems to be the principal ground of complaint on the part of the employers. Without a certain number of contract labourers, who are liable to do any work whatever upon the estate, either by daily pay or by job, which is generally left to their option, it would be difficult to get some indispensable operations performed, except at a rate of remuneration entirely disproportionate to the quantity of labour applied. This no doubt creates an unsatisfied feeling in the minds of the estates' labourers, who are obliged to take whatever is apportioned to them, whether it yield a greater or a lesser amount of remuneration. But it must eventually work its own cure; for the peasantry will not be slow to learn that one description of work is as indispensable as the other, and that wages depend not merely on the amount of work done, but upon the rate of profit derived by the owner of the soil from the produce of that work, and upon the degree of competition which may exist in the market for employment.

Third.—New institutions, such as churches, schools, savings' banks, benefit societies, &c., &c.

The augmented attendance of the people at the several places of worship, to which they are respec-

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tively attached, has rendered it necessary to make strenuous efforts for their accommodation. A new chapel has been erected in the central part of the island on the bounds of four parishes, to which a separate ecclesiastical district has been assigned, and which has been liberally endowed by the Legislature. A new church is erecting at Barbham for the parish of St. Peter, superintended by an architect engaged in England for the purpose. The parish church of St. John has been recently enlarged by means of additional galleries, and one of the chapels of ease is about to receive some considerable extension.

The Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society have erected in the town of St. John, a plain, but neat and substantial edifice as a chapel, which is of great extent, and capable of holding a vast number of persons.

The Moravian Church have built a neat, and even elegant edifice, at so great distance from the district chapel above noticed, in the centre of the island; and another in the northern district.

Schools are attached to the whole of these establishments; besides which are many others all over the island; but I have merely adverted in this place to such as have been recently found requisite. The total number of schools in the island, inclusive of Sunday-schools, may be estimated at upwards of sixty, which are attended by more than five thousand children.

A building is erecting on the rising ground, immediately to the eastward of St. John's, for a Presbyterian church. It is not making rapid progress; and it is, I believe, quite uncertain at present in what manner the funds necessary for its endowment are to be provided, when the building itself shall have been completed.

Each of the religious bodies established in the island have one or more Friendly Societies in connexion with it, under the superintendence of the respective ministers. They are of great and essential service to those who have been made sufficiently alive to their advantages to become members; but it is much to be desired that their benefits should be still more extensively appreciated, and that the system should be aided in its operations by a Savings' Bank, under the authority of legislative enactment, providing for the due responsibility of its management. There being no poor law in this island, defining the classes entitled to relief, or prescribing the manner in which it shall be administered, or the amount to which it shall be limited, is it obvious, that with the increasing prevalence of what is termed independent location, there might be in times of a sudden reverse of prosperity, as from continued drought, or the withdrawal, from any cause, of capital from agricultural pursuits, a corresponding increase of the public burthens, or, at all events, of individual distress, unless such persons were enabled to fall back upon their previous earnings for support while awaiting a favorable change of circumstances, or preparing to adopt some other course of life. It is right to remark in this place, that, by the Emancipation Act, the slaves, who, on the 1st of August, 1834, were incapable of earning their own existence were made chargeable to the estates, and that those who have become infirm or destitute since that period have been considered entitled to parochial relief.

The admirable institution in St. John's, originally established to afford a daily meal to a few poor persons residing in the neighbourhood, but which has extended its plan and accommodations until it has become the infirmary, alms-houses, and lazaretto for the poor of the whole island, in addition to its primary and more confined object, continues to flourish under the zealous and ardent care of the excellent and estimable rector of the parish. Strangers have never been refused the benefit of admission to this asylum when their necessities have required its aid; and it is, I believe, in contemplation to erect, if possible, a ward for the exclusive reception of sick and destitute seamen and others who may temporarily be left without resources in the island. The parochial poor placed in this asylum are maintained by a weekly payment from their respective parishes, and seamen, if belonging to any vessel consigned to the port, are paid for by the representative of the owners. The deficiency is made up by voluntary subscriptions, which have been sustained and increased with an alacrity highly creditable to the community, besides many valuable donations from parties resident in Great Britain, and the building expenses have been, to a great extent, defrayed, as the site was granted by the local legislature.

An attempt has been recently made to establish an asylum for female orphan children, but I fear it has not hitherto met with the success its benevolent promoters anticipated, more in consequence of a disinclination on the part of its contemplated objects to avail themselves of its benefits than from any deficiency of means. An institution of this nature, exclusively in connexion with the Wesleyan Methodist Society, has been for some years in existence.

Fourth.—State and prospects of cultivation, noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages: the produce of the last crop and the promise of the next—the weather, &c.

The state of cultivation is, I apprehend, as satisfactory as could be fairly anticipated, though many proprietors or managers, of course, complain of the insufficient quantity or defective quality of the work rendered by their labours; but agriculturists all over the world, and in all times, are notoriously difficult to be pleased. I believe that as much, nay, more land, is opened for the cultivation of the staple product now, as was the case in time of slavery, and will continue to be so, as long as the capital employed meets with an adequate return. It cannot, I think, be asserted, that crops are not taken off owing to a deficiency of labour, for it is always to be had, if a proportionate price can be given for it. It is commonly insisted on that there is an ample stock of labourers in the island for all its wants; and in a certain sense this is undoubtedly true: but inasmuch as no species of labour can be compulsory, it depends upon the inclination of the individual whether he will or will not apply himself to the cultivation of the staples. Hence there is a competition for labour instead of a competition for employment, and the price of labour has consequently advanced about 50 per cent. on the average. Notwithstanding this, however, looking at the dead weight from which the planter was relieved by the abolition of slavery, and that, if he pays higher wages, he employs fewer people than he was then burthened with, there is no doubt that estates are conducted at much less expense, and certainly with less trouble than under the old system.

The introduction of so great a change in the social economy of the working classes, as the abandonment of the estates' cottages, or at any rate occupying them only on the condition of rent, will of necessity tend to keep up the rate of wages, for rent is an item of expenditure hitherto unknown to the labourer, and the principle has been fully recognised in the practice of paying jobbers at a higher rate than resident labourers. On the other hand, it becomes a question of deep moment, how far the profits of sugar cultivation will support an uniform rise in the rate of wages. It may be urged, as it has often been, that this rate is not too high: certainly it is not, and every well-wisher to the country would gladly see it doubled, if based upon the corresponding profits of the owner of the soil. But it must not be forgotten that, in this island at least, the returns of the production of sugar, although enormous as compared with the profits on other species of cultivation in different parts of the world, if we except rice, opium, and perhaps a very few others, are unstable and fluctuating. A good crop may

be yielded when the market is depressed; and, on the contrary, high prices may be quoted when the planter can but gaze on more empty hogsheds than full ones.

It is not easy, and in fact I am quite unable to give a detailed account of the expense of growing and manufacturing a hogsheds of sugar, for this possibly varies on every different estate in the island, and even on the same estate in successive years; but from data to which I have had access, and on which, from the character and position of the individual by whom they were furnished, I can place every reliance, it is satisfactorily shown, that under the present system of plantation management, and with the present rate of wages, the lowest market price which sugar ought to bring, per cwt., to remunerate the planter, is 61s. 6d. sterling, which may be thus divided, 24s. sterling for duty, 7s. 6d. for freight, commission, insurance, and other charges, leaving 30s. sterling for the producer, to yield his profit and cover his expenditure. If therefore wages are to be maintained at their existing level, in the face of the competition to which the British West India planter is now exposed, it would seem that one of two things must be effected, either the home duty must be reduced, or some other more economical method of cultivating and manufacturing the staples must be had recourse to, otherwise the less productive soils will first be given up, and then those estates which are encumbered with heavy obligations, and of which the proprietors have no command of capital, will be withdrawn altogether from sugar cultivation, leaving only the unencumbered and wealthy capitalist to carry on the production of the staples by means of a monopoly of labour, which his unfettered means enables him to secure.

A new feature in the rural economy of the country is becoming well worthy of notice, namely, that patches of cane are grown in the whole to a great extent, by the holders of small allotments, in other words, by the mechanics and labourers who have quitted their residences on estates to dwell on their own land. I believe that hitherto this product is chiefly disposed of by sale in the market. It is possible that some may be sold for grinding to the neighbouring estates, but I am not aware of the fact. Eventually however this may be found the more profitable appropriation of it, but it is not to be supposed that such a plan would be ultimately beneficial to the small occupier, because having no extent of land to enable him to allow one part to lie fallow while another is in crop, and being unaccustomed in general to appreciate the value of manure or other dressing, he must either relinquish cane planting, or speedily exhaust the soil. If the villagers were instructed and enabled to adopt a proper system of cultivation, I think it not unlikely that a large addition might be made to the quantity of produce annually yielded; because it does not seem to be any more necessary that every man who grows a few acres of canes should also manufacture sugar, than that every farmer must be his own miller.

Besides canes, I have observed larger quantities I think than usual of Indian corn and arrow-root; in the grounds of the villagers, also yams, sweet potatoes, eddoes, &c. &c. &c. Tous les mois has been also introduced, but not as yet cultivated to any great extent.

As a further illustration of the uncertainty of sugar cultivation, it may be observed, relying on the same authority as before, that the difference between the combined effect of a good crop with good prices on the one hand, and a bad crop and bad prices on the other, is almost incredible: in the former case, an estate of the average extent in this Island may clear the proprietor from 4000*l.* to 8000*l.* sterling; in the latter, it may bring him in debt from 1000*l.* to 2000*l.* sterling. Hence the difficulty of applying general rules of judgment to such a peculiar state of things.

That the value of landed property in this island has not deteriorated since the abolition of slavery, is generally admitted. An estate of 388 acres was recently sold at the reputed sum of 15,000*l.* sterling, to a gentleman already largely interested in the soil, and it was considered a very low price. It is quite possible that it may refund him the purchase-money in five years, allowing one bad season to intervene.

It is out of the question at this moment to offer any opinion in regard to the favourable results of the ensuing crop. This is in fact the most critical occasion for the planter, and the island throughout its extent requires abundant and heavy rains. Fortunately showers have been frequent, and have prevented the plants from becoming absolutely parched, but as yet the crop is by no means safe. The weather has been for many months hot and dry; in the early part of the year remarkably so, and the deficiency of rain last year caused the crop which has been just taken off to fall much below what was anticipated. The subjoined Return of Exports of the staples of the island, with their declared values, since the year 1836, will sufficiently prove that there cannot have been any withholding of labour to affect the results of cultivation:—

Year.	Sugar.	Molasses.	Rum.	Arrow-root.	Preserves.	Total.
1836	9167 hhds. 859 trs. 1523 brls. £134,822	5457 puns. 852 casks. £29,529	117 casks. £507 10	313 pkgs. £241	27 pkgs. £21	£165,120 10
1837 (Year of drought.)	3,662 hhds. 456 trs. 549 brls. £45,980	2999 puns. £9727	188 puns. £1345	113 pkgs. £69	25 pkgs. £ 62	£60,733 0
1838	14,661 hhds. 1581 trs. 2122 brls. £300,125	10,528 puns. £67,010	254 puns. £2958	509 pkgs. £524	72 pkgs. £84	£370,701 0
1839	14,678 hhds. 1059 trs. 1764 brls. £275,450	8709 puns. 1192 casks. £54,324	486 puns. 327 hhds. £6047	707 pkgs. £870	71 pkgs. £210	£336,901 0
1840	13,090 hhds. 1229 trs. 2269 brls. £344,071	7937 puns. 499 casks. £89,151	722 puns. £4212	285 pkgs. £425	58 pkgs. £75	£437,934 0

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The mean annual temperature of the island has been calculated by Dr. Hamilton at 77°8. The mean of six months from November to June at 75°4, and that of the six months from May to December at 80°283. The coldest months are December, 75°5, and February, 71°71; the hottest months, July, 86°8, and August, 80, showing a variation of temperature of 15°1 between the coldest and hottest month.

Fifth.—Improvements and discoveries, as, for instance, any new machine by which labour is saved; any improved method of cultivation; any new manufactures, &c.

On this head I regret there is but little to say. Under a system of slavery when the number of disposable hands on an estate was generally much greater than its actual necessities required, there was of course little inducement to invent or adopt means for the saving of labour; and although the case is now widely different, since none are kept on pay who do not work, the plantation system is very deficient in the economical arrangement and distribution of its strength. The light iron plough is in general use on those estates where the land is sufficiently level to admit of its application; but with this exception, I am hardly aware of any feature of improvement worthy of remark. The same description of hoe is now in use as before; but although it appears to an European a clumsy and unwieldy implement, requiring great muscular exertion, the peasantry would not easily be induced to relinquish its use. The contrast between the style of performing agricultural labour here and that of a British farm, is too striking to pass unnoticed by the most superficial observer. If it be required to load a cart with mould, for example, in England, the spade would be employed, and the cart would be speedily loaded by what may be called a direct transfer of the material; but here the labourer scrapes with his hoe a small quantity into a round shallow basket, which he places on his head, then steadily marches to the cart and deposits his burthen, then returns for another. Whether the distance be great or small, the labourer carries his load upon his head, whatever be its nature; and I have more than once heard an anecdote related of a benevolent proprietor residing in England, who, in order to facilitate the labour of his people, sent out for their use a quantity of wheelbarrows, which were no sooner in their possession, than instead of being employed in the ordinary mode, they were placed on their heads, and great amusement afforded to them from whirling the wheel, which was suspended before their faces.

The steam-engine, which has been introduced on a large number of estates, enables the manufactures to be more steadily proceeded with; but I have been told that its effects in the expression of the juice from the cane are by no means equal to those of the windmill when urged by a fine breeze.

Attempts have been made to introduce improvements in the process of boiling the sugar, and in the distillation of rum; but the promoters have not succeeded in inducing any managers to adopt the methods they have advocated. The process of desiccating the sugar-cane, and exporting it in that state for conversion into sugar, has also attracted attention, but not I believe to any practical effect in this island.

I am not aware of the recent adoption of any improvement in the culture of the sugar-cane, but I think that more attention is now paid to the manuring of the land than was formerly the case.

Sixth.—State of internal traffic, noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

The internal traffic of the colony may be defined, so far as regards natural products, to consist in the raising of the various kinds of vegetable and animal stock for consumption, and in the class of manufactures to be confined to the making of hats, baskets, fish-pots, a coarse kind of earthenware, the polishing of petrifications, &c. &c., while on the other hand it is constituted of almost every conceivable variety of British and Foreign goods imported to meet the demand. I have unfortunately not at hand the means of ascertaining the amount of annual imports previously to 1834; but it is certain that since that time a great and manifest augmentation has taken place in the commercial business of the island, caused by the large circulation of money amongst the people, and the creation of new wants and a higher degree of social ambition on their parts.

It was my intention to have annexed to this part of my report some tables extracted from official sources, showing the comparative amounts of British and Foreign goods imported for some years past, also a comparative table of quantities of the principal articles of consumption for the same period; but as I find that some of my materials are not complete for 1840, and I am fearful of delaying any longer the transmission of this Report, I shall hope to be favoured with your Excellency's permission to forward the statements hereafter, in the shape of an appendix. In the mean time, however, I am enabled by the kindness of some friends conducting wholesale and retail stores in town, to afford some idea of the nature of the articles principally in demand by the Negroes, and of the extent to which their purchases for cash amount in some months of the year. Christmas continues to be the season when they buy with the greatest avidity; but throughout the year, to use the language of my informants, the Negroes are "their best customers" for every article imported, with the exception of liquors.

Bonnets are now much more in fashion for the females than the round hats formerly worn, though the latter still prevail in the rural districts; but it is remarkable that there has for some time been a large and increasing demand for children's shoes. No article is imported, however rich in quality or expensive in price, which this class of people will not buy, if they have the means; and at weddings, dances, and other important occasions of the like nature, they are even extravagantly attired. From the coarse fabrics of Dundee to the finest Brussels lace, and the richest silks of France or Spitalfields, all goods find customers at the established prices, and therefore little if anything can be correctly said now to be imported for the exclusive use of the labourers. I extract the following items from an order sent home by an importer, to be furnished by the first Christmas ships:—"Osnaburghs, various sorts of dowlas, Hollands striped, linen checks, Irish linen, cotton fabrics of all kinds, furniture checks, power-loom shirtings, cotton for ditto, drills, handkerchiefs—silk and cotton, regatta stripes for shirts, prints, muslin dresses, Gros-de-Naples, satins, hosiery of all descriptions, Leghorn hats and bonnets, umbrellas, ready-made clothing, haberdashery," &c. &c. I add from another source this illustrative remark:—"I find from a calculation just made, that the annual demand in my store for Osnaburghs alone, retailed by the yard (not by the piece), is equal to from 16,000 to 18,000 yards. The various description of drills, broad-cloths, Madras or imitation handkerchiefs, challi and muslin dresses, gauze and other handkerchiefs, ribbons, laces, muslin collars, cotton and silk hosiery, parasols, umbrellas, perfumery, &c., are in constant demand by the labourers; hams, cheese, porter, and wine, are also regularly purchased by them, more especially at Christmas." In the article of provisions their tastes have been decidedly improved, and the preference is now given to rice, wheat flour, bread and pork, over corn meal, farina, and salt-fish.

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Amount of Cash Sales.	A.	B.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
For December, 1837 .	780 9 8	1001 1 3
January, 1838 .	934 17 0	855 4 3
June, „ .	892 1 11	566 16 0
July, „ .	680 1 11	797 9 0
December, „ .	701 2 0	1271 2 3
January, 1839 .	964 6 6	616 8 4
June, „ .	680 17 6	910 10 5
July, „ .	663 17 6	756 4 9
December, „ .	577 12 3	583 18 5
January, 1840 .	872 3 6	691 10 11
June, „ .	350 1 8	768 14 0
July, „ .	871 10 10	1005 16 4
December, „ .	780 8 1	1408 7 0
January, 1841 .	591 7 7	1372 3 4
June, „ .	649 3 0	920 12 9
July, „ .	800 0 0	1187 11 5

N.B.—These amounts are of course in currency, but may be readily reduced into sterling by dividing them by 9, and multiplying the quotient by 5.

The stores from whose books I have derived the above information are doing a fair rate of business, but there are others considered to be above them in this respect, and therefore these quotations are not likely to mislead as to the actual value of the trade carried on with the labourers. There are at least twenty stores of the same description, and, with the exception of two or three, they are situated in the same street, being the principal entrance into, and greatest thoroughfare of the town.

In conclusion, I may be permitted to observe, that the results of emancipation in Antigua cannot, as I conceive, be considered up to the present time to disappoint any reasonable expectations, but rather to exceed them. I know not any who would willingly, were it practicable, revert to the system of slavery. I know not any community where grave offences are more rare, or where there is a population less disposed to resistance to the laws and authorities.

The defects of their character appear to me to be intimately connected with the associations engendered by their servile state, and therefore, that we ought not to be sanguine in our anticipations of any sudden or remarkable elevation of their moral condition. Great danger would, I apprehend, be incurred by leaving them in this point of view too soon to themselves, and hence I should earnestly deprecate any withdrawal of that eminently useful aid which has been bestowed upon them in the shape of religious and educational training. The greater the influence exercised upon them by their present pastors, the better for themselves and the community—the more diffused the blessings of education, such as is now held out to themselves and their children—the firmer ground shall we have for calculating on the certain improvement of the generation now rising up, to take their places shortly in the active business of life, and in their just appreciation of their relations in society. It must be ever borne in mind, that the interests of the proprietor of the soil and of the cultivation of it, of the employer and the employed, are now at all events closely linked together, and that on the feelings with which they respectively regard each other, will mainly depend, under Providence, the issue of the momentous change in their several positions, which as yet is scarcely beyond the infancy of its progress.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WILLIAM WALKER,
J. P. and Stipendiary Magistrate.

Enclosure 2, in No. 3.

Sir,

Antigua, 10th July, 1841.

Encl. 2, in No. 3.
Police Returns.

THE quarterly Police Returns for the Valley division will be transmitted to your Excellency as soon as they can be completed, in the mean time I have only to observe that the number and character of offences are pretty nearly similar to those of the preceding quarter.

In adverting to the additional queries forwarded by the Right Hon. the Secretary of State, it is necessary with reference to No. 1 to remind your Excellency, that no apprenticeship so called ever existed in Antigua, the transition from slavery to a perfect state of freedom was effected at once; and any remarks on the change in the habits of the Negro population ought in my humble opinion to take date, as far as this colony is concerned, from the year 1834.

Having only arrived in the island late in the year 1839, I cannot form an opinion of any change in the habits and morality of the peasantry from an earlier period; but since that time I think I may with safety say that a progressive, although gradual, improvement is apparent in their general condition and appearance.

With reference to the second query there can be but little doubt, that their “tastes” are strongly in favour of fine clothes and dress, nor is this predilection by any means confined to females; and it is much to be regretted that their wages are lavished in so unprofitable and expensive a manner. At weddings, christenings and at Divine service, I have seen field labourers dressed in superfine cloth coats, trousers and vests of the latest patterns and highest cost, which in England would expose persons in the same station and rank of life to the derision of their associates, for adopting a style of apparel so unsuited to their condition; nor can I make a favourable report that “taste” for comfort within doors, bears by any means a corresponding ratio to this refinement in dress, as I observe little or no improvement, in either their cottages or gardens, the latter of which are seldom cultivated; and this naturally leads me to observe on the occupancy of the labourer, and to the progress of free villages.

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The present uncertain tenure by which the Negro holds his dwelling is, I doubt not, the great bar to every thing approaching to improvement within doors, and also destroys the stimulus which otherwise might be called into action, in the cultivation of vegetables for the uses of a family; and until the country gentlemen grant freeholds, or lease their cottages for a term of years, I see but little prospect of any improvement in this respect. In a former Report I noticed the rise of a free village, others are now in progress, and, as I then anticipated, the price of land for these purposes has considerably fallen; but to ensure any beneficial results to the agriculturists, the formation of these settlements ought to be simultaneous and general throughout the country.

There are no savings' banks, nor do I think they can succeed unless the Home Government, or the Colony become security for the money invested: benefit societies are pretty generally established, under the guidance of the clergy.

Antigua has always been noted for its superior cultivation; the plough is used invariably in soils which admit of it, and carts and wheelbarrows are now always employed for the purpose of economizing labour.

Wages are extremely high; and should the prices of sugar give way, many of the small estates, unless in the hands of large capitalists, must be abandoned.

There is always a good demand for labour, but the supply is fully adequate to meet it; and although in some parts of the island emigration has existed to a considerable extent, I feel assured that Antigua contains a large surplus population for agricultural purposes.

As this may be the last Report I shall have the honour to make in my capacity of Stipendiary Magistrate for this island, I think it only due to the planter to acquaint your Excellency that no instance of anything like oppression has fallen within my notice; assaults by the managers and directors are of very rare occurrence: neither has any "breach of contract" by the undue detention of wages on the part of the employer, been adjudicated by me, except on grounds of dispute which have fairly admitted of a reference to magisterial authority.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

L. GREENE,

Major, and Stipendiary Magistrate.

His Excellency Major Macphail,

Administering General Government, Leeward Islands.

(A.)

ANTIGUA POLICE OFFICE, ENGLISH HARBOUR.

Names of Persons who have been ejected, from 1st to 31st day of May, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons committed as idle and disorderly, from 1st to 31st day of May, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have entered into Contract of Service, from 1st to 31st day of May, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have been Punished for the Non-performance of any Contract of Service, from the 1st to 31st day of May, 1841.

Names of Persons against whom we have pronounced Sentence, or made Order for inflicting of any Punishment for the Non-performance of Contract or Service.	Date of such Sentence or Order.	Grounds on which such Sentence or Order proceeded.	Names of Persons whom Information or Instance such Sentence or Order was made.	Nature and Amount of the Punishment awarded.
Jane	18th May .	Absenting herself without leave.	Thomas Joseph Derrick!	Forfeit seven days' wages, and pay fees.
Catherine	25th ,, .	Neglect of duty.	Henry Edward Gall . .	Forfeit six days wages, and pay fees.
Ben Richards . .	. . ,, .	Gross neglect of duty as cattle keeper, thereby causing death of a calf.	John Duer Cranstoun .	Imprisonment in the House of Correction, with hard labour, for fourteen days.

(Signed)

G. BLACK, J. P.

WILLIAM WALKER, J. P., and Stipendiary Magistrate.

Names of Persons who have been ejected, from 1st to 30th day of June, 1841.

ANTIGUA.

Nil.

Names of Persons committed as idle and disorderly, from 1st to 20th day of June, 1841.

Names of Persons committed as Idle and Disorderly Persons.	Names of Persons committed as Rogues and Vagabonds, and as Incurrible Rogues.	Date of every such Conviction.	Names of the Informer, and the ground on which the Conviction proceeded.	The length of Time for which they were to continue in force.
	Grace Profit . .	2nd June . .	The Assistant Inspector of Police. (Common prostitute.)	Three calendar months.

Names of Persons who have entered into Contract of Service, from 1st to 30th day of June, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have been Punished for Non-performance of any Contract of Service, from 1st to 30th day of June, 1841.

Names of Persons against whom we have pronounced Sentence or made Order for inflicting any Punishment for the Non-performance of Contract or Service.	Date of such Sentence or Order.	Grounds on which such Sentence or Order proceeded.	Names of Persons whom Information or Instance such Sentence or Order was made.	Name and Amount of the Punishment awarded.
Joe Ranther. . .	16th June	Ill behaviour in the field.	David Cranstoun . .	Forfeit 14 days' wages.
Mary Ann and Bathsheba.	, ,	Neglect of duty at the mill.	Henry E. Gale . . .	Each pay office fees.
Phæbe.	, ,	Ditto, ditto.	Ditto.	Forfeit 6 days' wages, and pay fees.
Frederick. . . .	, ,	Breach of contract, leaving without notice.	Edward Becket . . .	Reprimanded, and ordered to return to his work.
Lettice and Rose.	, ,	Neglect of duty, absence and working elsewhere.	David Cranstoun . .	Forfeit each 6 days' wages, and pay fees.
Hester	, ,	Breach of contract, neglect of duty and insubordination.	John D. Cranstoun.	Forfeit 6 days' wages, and pay fees.

(Signed) G. BLACK, J. P.
WILLIAM WALKER, J. P., and Stipendiary Magistrate.

(No. 28.)

No. 4.

No. 4.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor MACPHAIL, Administering the General Government of the Leeward Islands, to Lord STANLEY.

Government House, Antigua, 13th November, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Reports of the stipendiary magistrates in this island for the quarter ended on the 30th September last, accompanied by the usual abstract returns of cases, and the answers to Lord Glenelg's four queries.

ANTIGUA.

Enclosure 1, in No. 4.

Encl. 1, in No. 4.

Sir,

St. John's, Antigua, 23rd October, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency my Report for the quarter ended on the 30th ultimo.

Having in my last Report entered at considerable length into a consideration of the several topics to which the attention of the stipendary magistrates in this government has been more specifically directed, it will be obvious that after so short an interval there can be but little of change or novelty to call for extended remark.

The most important subject which occurs to me to notice, in the first instance, is the formation of District Agricultural Associations, composed of the proprietors, attorneys and managers of the respective estates, who feeling the inconveniences and difficulties arising out of the operation of two different systems of labour at the same time, namely, that of job or task work, and that of daily pay, at length came to a determination to abolish the existing distinction between estates' labourers and the jobbing or "independent" gangs, and, without reference to the additional advantages enjoyed by the former, to place the whole on the same footing in regard to work and pay.

It is apparent that this plan, if successful, would tend to establish the *principle* of task-work generally, and consequently to diminish the grounds on which the controlling provisions of the Contract Act are had recourse to: but in order to effect this, it must be indispensable that the scale of labour to be adopted as bearing a fixed proportion to the rate of wages to be paid should be equitable, just and moderate in its construction.

I have been informed that at the meetings at which the scales in question were framed and adopted, the opinions of intelligent and experienced labourers were obtained and acted upon in determining the average quantity which might be reasonably assigned as the day's work of an ordinary able and effective labourer; the day being calculated as hitherto at nine* working hours. For this I understand each manager will make the best bargain he can in regard to the wages to be given, there being no wish to attempt fixing a certain rate by which all should be bound, whether employers or labourers. On some of the estates in my district I am told that the pay offered for a day's work, according to the scale, is three bits, or one shilling sterling; and as at present the rate of pay *per diem* to estates' labourers does not exceed two bits, they can, it may be fairly presumed, earn easily what they have been accustomed to receive in this shape, and as much more as they may be inclined to exert themselves to obtain.

Such is, I believe, a fair statement of the *principle* of the new arrangement; and I must say that, on the most mature reflection, I cannot discover anything inconsistent with justice in its theory. How far it may be found to *work* well, is altogether another question.

The origin of jobbing gangs, and of working by contract for specific tasks, may be traced to the fruitful and ever active sources of mutual dissatisfaction between the employer and the labourer, arising from the absence of a legal definition of a day's work, and the consequent impracticability of any satisfactory decision being arrived at by a magistrate, in cases where it was alleged that a fair quantity of work had not been rendered for the wages expected. It was easy therefore for an idle or ill-disposed labourer to perform a very inadequate share of labour, and yet to maintain his right to his daily pay. Moreover, in this way injustice was unavoidably done to the industrious and deserving labourer, who, however he might exert himself, was entitled to no more than he who had loitered carelessly and indifferently through his task.

The remedy for this evil presented itself in engaging a certain number of persons to execute a given piece of work for a stipulated and fixed price; and if I am not mistaken the parties thus employed were originally always persons not under contract to any particular estate, but of late the estates' labourers have been generally treated with in the same way, when willing, on the estates to which they are respectively attached. The jobbing gangs, however, from a natural desire to get through their contract and to pocket their pay as quickly as possible, frequently performing their work in a slovenly and unsatisfactory manner; and it has been often asserted before me by estates' labourers, that they have had to go over the work done by the "independents." This of course was productive of jealousy, and led to bickerings; and again, instances were not rare of labourers under contract, tempted by the higher wages of the jobbers, feigning sickness, and being afterwards detected, even on the adjoining estate, at work in one of these gangs.

The application therefore of the principle of establishing a certain proportion between the quantity of work done, and the amount of pay to be claimed, seems as I before observed to be quite equitable, provided that the proportion so established be a fair and just one; it embraces all alike, and so far will tend to counteract the influence of higher gains in withdrawing the peasantry from the estates where they may have resided, undisturbed and in comfort.

Yet I cannot but apprehend that the experiment may have been deferred too long; the peasantry are a sensitive, and as regards their own interests a suspicious race; and they regard accordingly any attempt at innovation or change, which bears the appearance of imposing unusual restrictions; and it may be long before they thoroughly comprehend that any benefit can be derived to them from the adoption of such a system. I have been assured that considerable uneasiness prevails upon the subject amongst the estates' peasantry in my

* According to the definition given in the Regulations, the hours of labour must of course vary with the season of the year. On the 1st of June, for example, the sun rises at 5 25 a.m. and sets at 6 29 p.m., which would give ten and a-half working hours. On the 1st of December, again, the sun rises at 6 25 a.m. and sets at 5 25 p.m., which would give only eight and a-half working hours. The average length of a day's work, therefore, will be found practically to be what is stated above.

district, and in fact the entire strength of one estate attended before Mr. Black and myself to prefer a complaint arising out of the proceedings of the Windward Agricultural Association, and they had by some means become impressed with the notion that some new law had been passed abolishing "day-work" altogether. We explained to them, however, that the old law was alone in force, and that all they had to do was to perform a fair day's work for their day's pay; so long as that was the plan upon which they were working. We have not since heard of any dispute, and therefore trust that the matter was thus satisfactorily arranged. It was proposed to read over to them, in our presence, the rules laid down by the Association; but to this we decidedly objected, as it would have manifestly tended to impress them with the belief, that this document had some sanction of authority, instead of leaving them at liberty to reject or to adhere to its conditions.

I have not heard that any similar manifestation of feeling has been exhibited in the other districts. Another influence which may be adverted to as possibly calculated to affect the ends of these associations is the non-accession to their ranks of some, however few, owners or persons in charge of properties, or the withdrawal of some who may find it more to their interest not to be confined within the limits of its regulations; in either of these cases the fabric must be pronounced weak, and liable to fail, for to be successful the employers *must* be unanimous.

Had the objects and proceedings of the Agricultural Associations been limited to what has been above explained; I should have held that they had fallen short of the extent to which they might be carried with the certain prospect of great practical utility; but I am happy to be enabled to add that one of them, the Northern, has avowed its intention of embracing other and equally important subjects of attention in its range of operations; embodying in short the idea of "Agricultural or Cottage Gardening Association," which it occurred to me to record in some of my early Reports as likely to prove beneficial to the island; the resolutions of the Association to this effect are herewith enclosed.

(A.)

I have the honour to annex copies of the regulations of the several Associations, and it will be remarked that although these are similar, yet that there is some variety in the scales of the number of labourers allotted to a task, these being framed of course with reference to the local peculiarities of the different districts, in some of which the ground is much more easily tilled than in others.

(B.)

I regret to have to state that the produce of the crop for the year ended on the 30th ultimo fell far short of that of the preceding year; owing to natural causes adverted to in former Reports; it did not I believe exceed 10,000 hogsheads of sugar. The crop now in the ground has been also exposed to great risk owing to the long continued drought; but it may I trust be looked upon as now warranting sanguine expectation of a heavy return when gathered. The rains commenced in the early part of September; and although not then of long continuance, have been succeeded by frequent and refreshing showers, which have given and preserved to the island a verdant and cheerful aspect; the heat however has been unusually intense even to the present time.

The island generally has been extremely healthy during the year: the crews of Her Majesty's vessels lately visiting English Harbour have suffered severely from fever, but not in all cases of a local character.

(C.)

In connexion with the subject of internal traffic I have the honour to annex the tables alluded to under this head in my last Report, one exhibiting a table of about fifty of the chief articles of import from British North America, the United States, and British and Foreign West Indies, showing the quantities for each year from 1835 to 1840 inclusive. I have unfortunately had no means of including British merchandise and manufactures, no record of them being accessible in the island. In the other table however will be found a statement of the official value of imports and exports for each year of the same period, to which I have added from materials obligingly furnished to me by the island Treasurer, a note of the invoice value of British goods imported in the same time on which the 2½ per cent. local duty has been paid. I believe that a small proportion of these amounts, is also included in the Custom House Return, but I am unable to distinguish it with accuracy.

(D.)

A note of exports of some few articles of colonial produce is also added, which will prove how little attention is paid to any culture but that of sugar.

(E.)

The fluctuations of the course of exchange with Great Britain during the above specified period are as under —

1835	£220	to	225	per £100
1836	215		225	"
1837	215		225½	"
1838	216		220	"
1839	220		227½	"
1840	220		222½	"

The par of exchange is 225 currency for £100 sterling.

The above Returns have been chiefly compiled from the official blue books.

In conclusion I have further the honour to annex the usual abstract Returns of cases heard before myself and Mr. Justice Black at English Harbour, and our replies to the four questions circulated by Lord Glenelg. As the number of adjudications under the Contract Act is rather larger than usual, it may be proper to remark that three are cases of labourers' wages withheld by managers; two are not cases of agricultural labourers; and that in two instances

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there are five cases from the same estate, the principal cause of complaint has been repeated absence without permission.

(Signed)

I have, &c.

WILLIAM WALKER,

J. P., and Stipendiary Magistrate.

(A.)

ANTIGUA NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

At a Meeting held at Langford's, October 15, 1841, the following rules were adopted :

1. That this Association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Stewards, to be chosen by ballot ; three of the officers to form a quorum to arrange business.
2. That the objects of this Association are to promote the science of agriculture, and encourage the zeal and industry of all classes connected therewith ; first, by affording the opportunity for discussing such methods as may best promote improvement in the growth and manufacture of the sugar cane, and other tropical productions, with the least manual labour ; and, secondly, by establishing such a system of rewards as may be most conducive to those objects.
3. That the subscription of each member, being a proprietor, shall be ten dollars for each estate ; a small proprietor, or an attorney, five dollars, and a manager two dollars ; subscriptions to be paid to the Treasurer on the 1st of January, commencing in 1842.
4. That the days of general meeting of this Association be the first Monday in January, April, July, and October ; and that particular meetings be called at the discretion of the President, on the application of any two members, three days' notice being given thereof.
5. That the fine for non-attendance at the general or special meetings be one dollar ; and in default of payment within the quarter, the defaulter shall cease to be a member, unless in case of illness or public business, when an appeal must be made to the President.
6. No manager allowed to compete for any prize who is not a member of the Association ; nor any other person whose employer is not a member.
7. These rules shall not be altered or amended without the consent of two-thirds of the members of the Association.

The following gentlemen were elected officers of the Association :—

President HON. GEO. SAVAGE MARTIN.
 Vice-President HON. BERTIL E. JARVIS.
 Treasurer FRANCIS B. OTTLEY, Esq.
 Secretary SAMUEL BOURNE, Esq.

Prizes will be given to managers who make the largest quantity, and best quality, of sugar ; rear the largest number of stock, &c., &c.

To chief-overseers who keep the books in the most correct and intelligent manner, &c.

To labourers, for industry ; ploughmen, for good work ; stock-keepers, for attention ; and mothers who have large families employed in agriculture.

Those gentlemen of the district who were not present at the meeting, and who wish to become members of the Association, are requested to notify the same to the Secretary, at the store of D. B. Garling, Esq., St. John's.

(B.)

At a Meeting of the South and West Agricultural District Association, held at Buckley's on Monday, 6th September, 1841, the following gentlemen being present—viz. :

M. H. Daniel, B. E. Jarvis, G. S. Martin, R. E. Williams, J. Athill, W. E. Ledeatt, Thomas Doyle, Edward Beckett, Samuel Bourne, Paul Austin, E. Lipscombe, J. J. Roden, James Salmon, F. Watson, D. Cranstoun.

Hon. R. E. Williams was requested to take the chair.

It was then unanimously resolved that the annexed scale of labour be adopted, it being calculated to insure on the one hand equitable remuneration to an average labourer for his toil, and on the other a fair portion of work to the plantation.

That the portion of work assigned to each labourer by the scale be considered as a defined "day's work," the day to consist of all the hours between sun-rise and sun-set, less only the usual half hour to breakfast and two hours at noon to dinner.

That the same rate of wages be paid to all labourers for the same portion of work without reference to their place of domicile.

That all wages be paid in money only. No rum to be distributed ; but industrious and deserving labourers may be presented with a portion of sweets not exceeding a quart in a week.

That no superintendent of job gang be employed. Job gangs are to be worked under all the arrangements of the estate on which they are employed, and no other.

That a standing committee of the Association consisting of a resident in each division of the district comprehended within its limits be appointed by the chairman.

That all persons are invited to communicate any deviations from the rules of the Association to such resident committee man who will enquire into the fact, and if need be request the chairman of the Association to call a general meeting.

That the proceedings of this meeting be printed and circulated for the information of all concerned.

R. E. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

SCALE REFERRED TO.	Number of Labourers required to perform the Work on an Acre of Land in a Day.	Number of 3½ feet Square Holes which each Labourer can work in a Day.
Tying and stacking trash at convenient distances from land which has made two hds. per acre or more	5½	666
Rolling trash off ratoon land preparatory to holing or ploughing	1½	2,666
Stumping up fresh stools	3½	1,015
Holing 3½ feet square holes (six inches deep) in unploughed land, in the flat parts	23½	150
Do. do. on hill sides where the land is light	19	187
Holing where the land has been previously ploughed and fallowed	19	187
Cross holing on light land that has been previously holed with the hoe	10	355
Do. do. on stiff land do. do.	12	300
Do. do. on land ploughed and banked with the plough	10	355
Weeding ordinary fallow land	6	592
Do. foul do.	9	395
Do. very foul do.	12	300
Stripping, dropping and planting (one plant) land clean, but to be brushed all over	5	711
Do. do. 2 plants	7	508
First weeding and supplying	7	508
Subsequent weedings	6	592
Weeding ratoons, turning trash and supplying	5	711
Dropping out manure in a two dog basket, well filled, heaps being conveniently placed		
Each person can dig mould and load 8 carts (not exceeding a ton weight each), in a day	12	300 Baskets each person.
The same of manure		
Carting 15 loads not exceeding half a mile and more if shorter distance		
15s. 9d. per acre for ploughing when hard and dry, 4 yoke plough		
18s. 6d. when moist and soft, divided between ploughmen and drivers		

At a Meeting of the Northern Agricultural District Association, held at Langford's estate on Wednesday, 8th September, 1841, the following gentlemen being present—viz.:

M. H. Daniel, B. E. Jarvis, G. Bispham, J. H. Baker, F. B. Ottley, O. Nugent, T. Morrison, Samuel Williams, Joseph Quin, J. S. Martin, Robert Brown, R. W. Nanton, G. S. Martin, J. Howell, James Salmon, F. Bispham.

Hon. B. E. Jarvis was requested to take the chair.

It was then unanimously resolved that the annexed scale of labour be adopted, it being calculated to insure on the one hand equitable remuneration to an average labourer for his toil, and on the other a fair portion of work to the plantation.

That the portion of work assigned to each labourer by the scale be considered as a defined "day's work," the day to consist of all the hours between sun-rise and sun-set, less only the usual half hour to breakfast and two hours at noon to dinner.

That the same rate of wages be paid to all labourers for the same portion of work without reference to their place of domicile.

That all wages be paid in money only. No rum to be distributed; but industrious and deserving labourers may be presented with a portion of sweets not exceeding a quart in a week.

That no superintendent of job gang be employed. Job gangs are to be worked under all the arrangements of the estate on which they are employed, and no other.

That a standing committee of the Association, consisting of a resident in each division of the district comprehended within its limits, be appointed by the chairman.

That all persons are invited to communicate any deviations from the rules of the Association to such resident committee-man who will enquire into the fact, and, if need be, request the chairman of the Association to call a general meeting.

That the proceedings of this meeting be printed and circulated for the information of all concerned.

B. E. JARVIS, Chairman.

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SCALE REFERED TO.	Number of Labourers required to perform the Work on an Acre of Land in a Day.	Number of 3½ feet square Holes which each Labourer can work in a Day.
For tying up trash and stacking it in heaps, at convenient distances, upon land from which canes have been cut to make two hhds. sugar per acre or more	5½	666
Roll trash off land preparatory to holing or ploughing	1½	2,666
Stumping up fresh stools	3½	1,015
Holing 3½ feet square holes, light land, six inches deep	18	198
Stiff land do. do.	23½	150
Holing land previously ploughed	18	198
Cross holing light land unploughed	9	395
Do. do. stiff do. do.	11	323
Do. do. Banked only with plough	10½	339
Ordinary weeding in fallow lands	2½	1,292
Do. do. if foul	5½	666
Do. do. if very foul	8	444
Stripping, dropping and planting (one plant) scraping land all over it being clean	4½	790
Weeding and supplying young canes the first time very carefully	5½	666
Subsequent weedings	3	1,185
Scraping over surface where there are very few weeds and with care	2	1,777
Supplying and dressing rattoons	2½	1,292
Dropping out dung in a two dog basket, heaps being conveniently placed		
Each person can dig mould and load eight carts in a day, not exceeding a ton weight each	12	300 Baskets a day each person.
The same of manure &c. &c.		
Each cart can carry out 15 loads of mould or dung a day, the distance of half a mile, and more if shorter		

At a Meeting of the Windward Agricultural District Association, held at Vernon's Estate, on Monday 30th August, 1841, the following gentlemen being present, viz. :—

M. H. Daniel, F. F. Brown, G. Savage Martin, G. W. Ottley, G. W. Ledeatt, D. Cranstoun, E. Lipscombe, Joseph Lavicount, Samuel Bourne, O. Nugent, J. Bennett, T. Morrison, James Salmon, F. B. Otley, G. Bispham, James Sheriff, S. A. Turner, W. Allen.

Col. Hon. F. F. Brown was requested to take the chair.

It was then unanimously resolved that the annexed scale of labour be adopted, it being calculated to insure, on the one hand, equitable remuneration to an average labourer for his toil, and on the other, a fair portion of work to the plantation.

That the portion of work assigned to each labourer by the scale be considered as a defined "day's work," the day to consist of all the hours between sun-rise and sun-set, less only the usual half hour to breakfast, and two hours at noon to dinner.

That the same rate of wages be paid to all labourers for the same portion of work, without reference to their place of domicile.

That all wages be paid in money only. No rum to be distributed; but industrious and deserving labourers may be presented with a portion of sweets, not exceeding a quart in a week.

That no superintendent of job gang be employed. Job gangs are to be worked under all the arrangements of the estate on which they are employed, and no other.

That a standing committee of the Association, consisting of a resident in each division of the district comprehended within its limits, be appointed by the chairman.

That all persons are invited to communicate any deviations from the rules of the Association to such resident committee-man, who will enquire into the fact; and, if need be, request the chairman of the Association to call a general meeting.

That the proceedings of this meeting be printed, and circulated for the information of all concerned.

F. F. BROWN, Chairman.

SCALE REFERRED TO.	Number of Labourers required to perform the Work on an Acre of Land in a Day.	Number of 3½ feet Square Holes which each Labourer can work in a Day.
For tying up and stacking trash in heaps, at convenient distances, upon land which has made two hhds. of sugar per acre, or more	5½	666
Roll trash off ratoon land, preparatory to holing or ploughing	1½ per acre.	2,666
Stumping up fresh stools	3½ per do.	1,015
Holing 3½ square holes in light land not ploughed six inches deep	18	198

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SCALE REFERRED TO. (continued.)	Number of Labour- ers required to perform the Work on an Acre of Land in a Day.	Number of 3½ feet Square Holes which each Labourer can work in a Day.
Ordinary weeding in fallow lands	2½	1,292
Weeding in lands which are foul	5½	666
Do. do. very foul	8	444
Stripping, dropping, and planting (one plant), scraping land all over, it being clean	4½	790
Weeding and supplying first time very carefully	5½	666
Do. do. not foul, and light weeding	4	888
Subsequent weedings	3½	999
Scraping over surface where very few weeds are, with care	2	1,777
Supplying and dressing rattoons	2½	1,292
Drooping out Manure in a two dog basket, well filled, and heaps conveniently placed	12	300 baskets to each person. 300.
Each person can dig mould and load eight carts in a day, not exceeding a ton weight each	"	
Do. do. manure	"	
Carting dung or mould, according to distance, 15 loads for each cart, at the distance of half a mile—or to travel 15 miles per day	"	

(C.)

RETURN of the chief Articles of Import from British North America, the United States, and British

IMPORTS.	1835.	1836.	1837.
Ale	156 casks	20 brls. 11 casks	1 cask, 72 barrels
Beer		18 baskets	
Beef and Pork	1127 brls. 594½ brls.	515 brls. 253 hf.-brls. 153 kils.	5 trs. 852 brls. 206 hf.-brls. 1 firkin, 13 kils, 632 cwt.
Butter and Lard	10 casks, 322½ firkins, 477 kegs	B 474 firkins, 143 hf.-firkins, L 178 kegs, 15 jars.	157 firkins, 16 hf.-firkins, 588 kegs, 50 hf.-kegs, 100 lbs.; Lard, 3 jars, 13 firkins, 177 kegs.
Beans		39 brls.	18 puns. 10 brl. 170 bags
Bread		247 brls. 50 hf.-brls.	243 brls. 108 hf.-brls. 92 kgs. 231 bgs.
Bricks	6000		
Barley			17 brls. 14 kegs, 100 jugs
Corn	8318 bus. 318 brls.	398 puns. 2779 brls. 5077 bags, 1000 ears.	281 brls. 2704 bags, 20,285 bus.
Corn Meal	1462 puns. 1844 brls.	433 puns. 234 brls.	2162 puns. 5334 brls.
Cheese	2925 lbs	408 cases, 2 casks, 8 brls. 3296 lbs.	51 casks, 225 boxes, 363 cheeses, 5757 lbs.
Candles	959 boxes	851 boxes	370 boxes
Chairs	160	64	13
Coffee	93 brls.	56 brls. 70 bags	105 hf.-brls. 17 bags, 3 casks, 2 boxes.
Cocoa	6 trs.	61 brls.	19 brls. 1 box, 70 bags, 600 lbs.
Cocoa Nuts			13,500
Cigars	7000, 195 cases.	357 boxes	225 boxes, 12 hf.-boxes, 2 kgs. 10 brls.
Cider	2 brls.	96 brls.	72 brls. 83 boxes
Cattle	146 head	271 head	387 head
Cologne Water		75 boxes	14 boxes
Essences and Perfumery		1 box, 4 baskets, 7 trunks	2 trunks, 2 boxes
Fish, Dried	897 hhds. 3703 brls. 127 boxes, 21 drums.	3396 brls. 33 hf.-brls. 297 casks.	55 drums, 709 casks, 602 hhds. 226 trs. 2314 qtls. 319 brls. 419 boxes, 30 hf.-boxes.
Fish, Pickled		120 brls.	2903 brls. 56 hf.-brls. 232 kils
Fish, Smoked		Cod fish 33 hhds. 381 casks, 20 boxes, 650 qtls.	50 boxes
Flour	12,081 brls. 1002½ ditto	8936 brls. 1154 hf.-brls.	7718 brls. 100 hf.-brls.
„ Rye		118 brls.	316 brls.
Farine			15 hf.-brls. 32 bags
Hoops	15,500	37,332	6950
Horses	49	14	246
Hard Wood	756 ps.	1299 ps.	1182 ps.
Hams	5 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lbs.	57 brls. 59 cwt. 2 qr.	vide beef, &c.
Hats	4 cases, 214 dozen	9 pkgs. 11,964 loose	20 and 4 brls. 409 dozen, 1 package
Lumber	2,832,358 ft.	1,309,430 ft.	2,887,955 ft.
Mules	70	39	43
Onions	2540 brls.	1100 bunches	6 crates, 20 boxes, 5200 bunches, 10,000 lbs.
Oats		2 brls. 150 bush.	90 puns. 827 bags, 50 brls.
Olive Oil		30 boxes, 47 bsks. 8 demigians	1 box, 38 baskets, 1 jar
Potatoes	419 brls.	13 hhds. 490 brls. 549 hampers.	405 brls. 2 boxes, 559 hampers, 400 bus.
Peas		20 hhds. 187 brls. 754 bus. 310 bags.	81 puns. 503 brls. 20 hf.-brls. 729 bags, 2543 bus.
Porter		76 hhds. 22 hf.-hhds.	12 casks
Pork		779 brls. 231 hf.-brls.	vide beef, &c.
Rice	85 tons, 302 trs. 828 bgs. 50 brls.	71 trs. 211 bags	166 trs. 103 hf.-trs. 12 brls. 334 bags, 350 lbs.
Refined Sugar			13 puns. 1 brl.
Raisins		228 boxes, 10 hf.-boxes	7 brls. 363 qr.-boxes, 1 cask, 14 jars, 8 kegs, 1 cwt.
Spirits	9937 galls. 91 dimigians, 58 cans, 15 casks	3 puns. Rum, 10,354 galls.	1 cask, 6180 galls.
Shingles	3,713,325	6,671,509	2,957,150
Staves	753,246	233,107	205,010
Salt	947 bus. 394 brls.	778 brls.	517 brls. 940 bus.
Soap		56 boxes	188 boxes, 2 kegs
Snuff	4 boxes	2 boxes, 58 botts. 115 jars	8 boxes, 149 jars, 33 botts.
Tobacco, Manufactured	97 boxes, 36 jars	17 kegs, 1 cask, 15 trces.	33 kegs, 17 jars
„ Leaf	35 hhds. 18 bales	31 hhds. 10 brls. 57 boxes	49 hhds. 96 bales, 18 trs. 10 brls. 15 bags, 5 kegs, 25 lbs.
Wine	92 tuns, 164 cases, 64 casks, 5 baskets.	6 hhds. 7 pipes, 85 tuns, 677 cases, 61 casks, 832 galls. 6 baskets.	65 tuns, 3 pipes, 15 hhds. 35 qr.-casks, 2 brls. 118 cases, 7 demigians, 18 baskets, 1346 galls.
Yams	210 dozen, 2 brls.	12 990 lbs.	1 pun. 7 casks, 79 brls. 15 bags, 1131 cwt.

(C.)

and Foreign West Indies, showing the quantities for each year, from 1835 to 1840 inclusive.

1838.	1839.	1840.
83 casks	26 brs. 20 half brls.	
18 hds.	3 brls.	
208 brls.	(and hams) 2497½ cwt. 612 brls. 17 trs. 6 hams.	581 casks.
1120 kegs; lard, 334 kegs	3 puns. 537 kegs, 37 hf.-kegs; lard, 45 kegs.	1425 firkins; lard, 180 kegs.
	7 brls. 151 bus.	164 bus.
821 brls.	50 puns. 1230 brls. 284 hf.-brls, 85 qr.-brls. 388 boxes, 308 kegs.	1752 casks.
60,000	16,000	45,000.
529 kegs	97 brls. 200 kegs, 7 jugs.	
46 puns. 310 brls. 1237 bags, 30,480 bus.	2007 bags, 26,260 bus. 28 puns.	
2351 puns. 4348 brls.	1892 puns. 7869 brls.	1232 puns. 4363 brls. 11,479 bus.
10 hampers, 1401 and 5900 lbs.	796 boxes, 5877 lbs.	25,000 lbs.
1933 boxes	1072 boxes	1660 boxes.
85	229.	
54 brls.	59 brls. 3 bags.	
10 brls. 56 bags	61 lbs. 15 bags, 2 cwt.	
12,498	14,480	2700.
14 brls. 270 boxes	267 cases, 20 lbs. 3400 loose	475 boxes.
82 brls. 12 cases	20 cases, 66 brls.	
487 head	821 head	698 head.
36 packages	74 boxes, 1 basket, 6 boxes	250 bottles.
10 trunks, 8 boxes, 38 packages	4 trunks, 1 basket, 1 box.	
1380 casks, 334 boxes, 352 qtls. 45 drums.	1883 hhds. 124 trs. 225 brls. 1435 boxes, 34 qtls. 235 drums	3395 casks.
2809 brls. 25 kils	1248 brls. 20 hf.-brls. 93 kegs, 18 hf.-brls.	2749 casks.
.	153 boxes.	
10,041 brls, 65½ ditto	15,085 brls. 315 hf.-brls.	7542 brls.
25 brls.	364 brls.	
7 brls.	7 brls. 3 bags.	
13,050, 500 bdls.	50 bdls. 30,086	5289.
360	148.	
764 ps. 8974 ft.	1171 ps.	1880 ps.
9 brls. 500 and 274 cwt. . . . .	. . . . .	130 casks.
14,124	3 cases, 7057 loose	3943.
2,871,636 ft.	1,665,687 ft.	3,096,623 ft.
149	252.	
15,063 bunches	4350 bunches, 19,567 lbs. 60 brls. 5000 ropes.	192 casks.
20 puns. 355 bags, 502 bus.	53 hhds. 437 bags, 400 bus. 50 brls.	970 bus.
53 baskets, 16 boxes	34 baskets, 55 boxes, 17 bots. 27 jugs	30 baskets.
16 hhds. 799 brls. 319 hampers	22 bags, 1746 brls. 783 hampers, 845 bus.	2496 brls.
2 hhds. 50 brls. 156 bags, 209 bus.	2260 bus. 492 bags, 224 brls.	1822 bags.
191 hhds.	31 hhds.	41 hhds.
1175 brls. . . . .	. . . . .	2988 casks.
133 trs. 740 bags	35 brls. 2132 bags, 144 trs. 95 hf.-trs.	8238 bags.
3 puns.	2 puns. 6 loaves, 1 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lb.	35 puns.
80 baskets, 172 boxes	189 boxes	434 boxes.
19,741 galls.	17,687 galls.	2903 galls.
1,932,174	2,487,265	2,525,817.
1,174,513	796,958	191,134.
80 tons, 1684 brls.	306 brls. 120 bus.	
698 boxes	51 boxes. 36 cakes	194 boxes.
244 jars, 1 barl. 6 cases, 1 basket, 224 lbs.	206 jars, 1 case, 128 bott. 76 lbs.	115 bottles.
58 kegs, 36 boxes	1 cask, 1 case, 1 chest, 3 kegs, 50 boxes.	101 boxes.
63 hhds. 45 bales, 35 boxes	45 hhds. 75 brls. 1 box	70 hhds.
113 hhds. 122 qr.-casks, 14 pipes, 308 cases, 1 brl. 4 demigians, 52 hf.-tuns.	22 casks, 55 cases, 99 tuns, 238 galls.	46 tuns, 1426 galls.
400 lbs.	4 brls.	772 bags.

ANTIGUA.

(D).

ABSTRACT RETURN of the Annual Amounts of Imports and Exports, and of Tonnage, Inwards and Outwards, for each of the Six Years ending with December 1840.

IMPORTS.							EXPORTS.			TONNAGE.					
Year.	Foreign, &c.			British.	TOTAL.			Chiefly to Great Britain.			In.	Out.			
	£	s.	d.	£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.					
1835	138,985	2	2	155,310	294,295	2	2	198,269	19	1	34,061	33,325			
1836	94,010	18	6	148,634	242,644	18	6	201,591	12	6	27,945	28,952			
1837	85,130	17	8	152,984	238,114	17	6	99,423	13	3	27,180	25,689			
1838	85,589	1	2	142,704	228,293	1	2	395,172	12	3	33,310	35,610			
1839	123,927	18	5	184,554	308,481	18	5	367,980	3	4	37,902	37,880			
1840	110,603	12	2	161,584	272,187	12	2	401,952	4	6	37,609	37,375			
					£	s.	d.						£	s.	d.
Average of Six Years					264,002	18	4	Average of Six Years					277,398	7	5

(E.)

MEMORANDUM of Quantities of Arrow Root, Tamarinds, and Yams exported in each of the Six Years, ending with December 1840.

	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.
ARROW ROOT.	700 casks, 290 boxes, 49 kegs, 58 barrels	98 casks, 573 boxes	17 brls., 106 boxes, 520 lbs.	424 boxes, 109 barrels	479 boxes, 50½ brls., 90 kegs	482 pkgs.
TAMARINDS.	26 kegs, 3 jars, 4 barrels, 77 boxes	32 kegs, 1 brl. 5 jars	10 brls. 83 kegs, 79 jars 60 lbs.	31 jars, 70 kegs	16 brls. 121 kegs, 82 jars	No Return
YAMS.	13 barrels	1 trs. 2 brls.	24 brls. 20 cwt.	21 barrels	4 barrels	No Return

Encl. 2, in No. 4.

Enclosure 2, in No. 4.

Sir,

St. John's, 7th October 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency my periodical Reports for the quarter ending on the 1st of October.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor,
Administering the General Government,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN GRAY,
Stipendiary Justice.

St. John's, Antigua, 1st October, 1841.

Answers to the Questions contained in the Circular Despatch of his Excellency Major Macphail, dated 14th June, 1841.

First.—General Character and Condition of the Peasantry.

The peasantry are in general orderly and submissive to the laws, and although we cannot boast of an entire exemption from crimes of an aggravated nature, such, when compared with the extent of our population, are not of frequent occurrence.

The calendar of persons for trial at the Quarterly Court of Queen's Bench and Grand Sessions of the Peace, which is now sitting, contains thirty-three cases: two of these have been tried, and the parties have been convicted, one a young man who had carnal knowledge of an infant between nine and ten years old; and the other an elderly man, who attempted to commit a rape on the body of a woman who is blind and bed-ridden: the offenders have been sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the House of Correction, with hard labour, and the younger delinquent will pass one month of each year in solitary confinement. The calendar also contains three cases of malicious stabbing, an offence which I am sorry to perceive has become more common than it formerly was: in these, as in former instances of the same description, the parties appear not to have been guilty of a premeditated crime, but to have acted under the momentary impulse of ungoverned passion.

I cannot close my remarks under this head without adverting to the recent attempt to burn the house of Mr. Walter, a store-keeper and extensive baker in this town: I have examined the premises, and am convinced that it was the act of an incendiary, but the perpetrator is as yet undiscovered.

Second.—Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors.

In the district to which my duties are more immediately confined, the valley and old road, the greater part of the peasantry are domiciled on estates as labourers under a general hiring: they can earn with ease from three shillings and four pence to four shillings sterling per week, and raise a considerable quantity of sheep, goats, swine, and feathered stock: of the remainder, some reside in cottages erected on land which they have either bought or leased, and others appear to have no fixed place of residence but sojourn with their friends and relatives. Many of those who are termed "Independents" are comprised in this class. These individuals are employed, as occasion may require, on estates which have not a resident peasantry adequate to their cultivation, and are consequently to a great extent migratory.

Very few of the second class are permanently engaged in the cultivation of the staple production of the colony, and those who are not tradesmen or mechanics depend principally on the produce of their grounds: when these means of subsistence fail, or are exhausted, some recur to labour in the field as a subsidiary mode of supporting themselves.

To cut wood for fuel and to prepare charcoal appears to be a favourite occupation with many of these individuals, and would be a laudable one if the parties dealing in these articles came honestly into the possession of them, but this unfortunately can seldom, if ever, be the case after the first

clearing of their land ; and those proprietors who have woods or coppices on their estates, are subject to serious inconvenience by the destruction of their trees.

Most of the peasantry who do not reside on estates own the fee-simple of their tenements, but the possession of ten acres of land in the country, or of a house in a town assessed at twenty pounds currency per annum, is the minimum of property that confers the privileges of a freeholder, and very few have been able to effect a purchase to this extent.

No census of the population having been taken since the abolition of slavery, I cannot say whether there has been an increase or a decrease in the rate of mortality during the last seven years.

Third.—New Institutions, as Churches, Schools, Savings' Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

The only new institution in progress in this district is an enlarged school in connexion with the Established Church. Friendly societies exist in every parish, but there are no savings' banks.

Fourth.—State and Prospects of Cultivation.

Want of continuous labour is still a subject of complaint, and the want will be more severely felt at no very distant period if the parents of the rising generation do not train their children to agricultural pursuits more generally than they now do.

Notwithstanding what I have said, I believe it to be the fact that the cane is cultivated as extensively now as it was under a state of slavery ; but to effect this object the planter has been compelled to abandon, almost entirely, the cultivation of provisions, and that portion of his estate which formerly was appropriated to an intermediate or rotation crop of yams, eddoes, potatoes, or corn, now lies an unproductive fallow.

The crop of the last year was below the average, and did not exceed ten thousand hogsheads, nor is the next likely to be larger, the canes having suffered severely from drought during the months of August and September.

It may be proper for me here to mention that Agricultural Associations have been formed in several parts of the island, with the view of defining what quantity of work shall in future be deemed a "day's labour," and that it is proposed that the scale adopted at Barbados during the apprenticeship shall form the basis of the plan. The details of the plan, however, are not matured, and I apprehend that the contemplated measure will prove a failure.

Fifth.—Improvements and Discoveries.

I cannot instance any modern improvement in the system of cultivation, or the introduction of any new machinery or new manufacture.

Sixth.—State of internal traffic.

The internal traffic of the island, with a few exceptions not worth noticing, is confined to the sale or barter of fresh meat, fish, poultry, milk, fruit, and vegetables, every article of consumption, beyond these, as well as every article of clothing, being imported.

The peasant rarely consumes the stock, or much of the provisions that he raises, but generally converts them into money, and purchases salted meat, wheaten flour, peas, rice, or Indian meal: malt liquor is becoming a favourite beverage with this class of persons, and wines of an expensive description are not unfrequently produced at their marriages and funerals ; on occasions of festivity, particularly at wedding-feasts and balls, the females are dressed in the most extravagant attire, but usually they, as well as the men, are frugal in their habits and abstemious in their diet.

The increased circulation of money, consequent on the wages of the labourers being paid in cash, has led to an increased demand for goods of British manufacture ; and in addition to articles of a coarser description, which are adapted for daily wear, broad cloths, silks, muslins, and trinkets, are in constant requisition : in selecting these items of his invoice, the merchant can have no safer guide than the London fashions for the season, even, strange as it may appear, although his sales should be confined to the recently emancipated peasant.

In concluding this Report, I must observe that the improved condition of our social system has affected the quantity rather than the quality of our imports, and that any alteration which may have taken place in this respect is to be attributed to the enlarged consumption of those articles of comfort and of luxury which, while slavery existed, were beyond the means of the labourer.

(Signed)

JOHN GRAY,
Stipendiary Justice.

ANTIGUA POLICE OFFICE, ENGLISH HARBOUR.

Names of Persons who have been ejected, from 1st day of July to the 30th day of September, 1841.
Nil.

Names of Persons committed as idle and disorderly, from 1st day of July to the 30th day of September, 1841.

Names of Persons committed as Idle and Disorderly Persons.	Names of Persons committed as Rogues and Vagabonds and as incorrigible Rogues.	Date of every such conviction.	Names of the Informer, and the grounds on which the Conviction proceeded.	The length of Time for which they were to continue in force.
Jessy Anderson . .	. . . . .	31st August ..	Kesiah Johnson Wandering abroad, and behaving in a riotous and disorderly manner.	Fourteen days' hard labour in the House of Correction.
	Thomas Lightfoot . . and John Antigua.	7th September.	Assistant Inspector of Police. Wandering abroad, not having any visible means of subsistence, and not giving any good account of themselves.	One month each hard labour in the House of Correction.
	Dorcas	14th September	Assistant Inspector of Police. Wandering abroad, not having any visible means of subsistence, and not giving any good account of himself.	Committed to the House of Correction for 3 months, without hard labour, being in a general state of disease.
	Grace	21st September	Assistant Inspector of Police. Wandering abroad, not having any visible means of subsistence, and not giving any good account of herself.	Committed to the House of Correction for one month, with hard labour.

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Names of Persons who have entered into any Contract of Service, from 1st day of July to the 30th day of September, 1841.

Nil.

Names of Persons who have been punished for the Non-performance of any Contract of Service, from 1st day of July to the 30th day of September, 1841.

Names of Persons against whom I have pronounced Sentence, or made Order for infliction of any Punishment for the Non-performance of Contract or Service.	Date of such Sentence or Order.	Grounds on which such Sentence or Order proceeded.	Names of Persons whom Information or Instance such Sentence or Order was made.	Nature and Amount of the Punishment awarded.
Primas . . .	6th July .	Neglect of duty .	James Salmon .	Forfeit 10 days' wages.
Dennis . . .	20th July .	" " "	Cudgoe Blue . .	" 2 "
John Patrick, alias Badge . . .	20th July .	" " "	George Gale . .	" 6 "
Henry Edward . .	20th July .	Misdemeanor .	George Gale . .	" 3 "
Edward . . .	20th July .	" " "	George Gale . .	" 4 "
Bob, alias Bob Roberts . . .	20th July .	" " "	George Gale . .	Reported and dismissed.
Edward Beckesh .	27th July .	Withholding wages	Elizabeth Cole .	Ordered to pay wages forthwith.
Thomas Wilson .	27th July .	" " "	Mark . . .	" " 10s. "
Thomas Wilson .	27th July .	" " "	William . . .	" " 12s. "
Wellington . . .	27th July .	Misdemeanor .	John Roden . .	Forfeit ten days' wages.
Joe Guy . . .	27th July .	" " "	John Roden . .	Committed to hard labour for ten days, House of Correction.
Sam	27th July .	" " "	John Roden . .	Return to his work, and give one month's notice to quit.
Rutby	27th July .	Breach of contract	Amelia Bird . .	Committed to hard labour for 14 days, House of Correction.
Jacob	10th August.	Misdemeanor .	George S. Bladen .	Committed to hard labour for ten days, House of Correction.
Louisa Williams .	10th August.	Breach of contract	Phœbe Lovell . .	Defendant reprimanded, and ordered to return to her work.
John Lewis . . .	16th August.	" " "	Thomas C. Walter .	" " " "
Natty	24th August.	Neglect of duty .	George Gale . .	Forfeit " fourteen days' wages.
Eleanor and Rachiel	7th September	Breach of contract	James Salmon . .	Reprimanded, and ordered to return to the estate.
Sophia	31st August .	Neglect of duty .	Thos. Joseph Derrick	Forfeit three days' wages.
Betsey Charles . .	31st August .	Misdemeanor .	John Hudson . .	" 6 "
William Grant . .	31st August .	Breach of contract	John Roden . .	" 10 "
John George . . .	7th September	" " "	David Cranstoun .	Reprimanded, and ordered to return to estate.
Edward Mason . .	7th September	Neglect of duty .	" " "	" " " "
Peggy Brown, . .	7th September	" " "	" " "	Forfeit fifteen days wages.
Joe Guy	7th September	Breach of contract	John Roden . .	Reprimanded, and ordered to return to work.
Catherine	14th September	" " "	John Hudson . .	Dismissed from estate.
Johanna	14th September	" " "	" " "	Forfeit six days' wages.

ANTIGUA.—BUCKLEY'S Names of Persons who have been punished for the Non-performance of any Contract of Service, for the Quarter ended 30th September.

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Names of Persons against whom I have pronounced Sentence, or made Order for infliction of any Punishment for Non-performance of Contract of Services.	Date of such Sentence or Order.	Grounds on which such Sentence proceeded.	Names of Persons at whose Information or Instance such Sentence or Order was made.	Nature and Amount of the Punishment awarded.
1. John	17 July	Ill-usage of cattle entrusted to his care, and by neglect occasioning the death of an ox	Samuel Gore, lessee of Bath Lodge Estate	One month's imprisonment in the House of Correction, with hard labour.
2. Philemon		Ill-usage of an ass	Ditto	To forfeit to the estate fourteen days' wages.
3. Emanuel	4 Sept.	Absence without leave	Ditto	Reprimanded and ordered to pay fee.
4. Simon		Ditto for thirty-one days.	Ditto	Fourteen days' imprisonment in the House of Correction, with hard labour.
5. Edw. G. Bryan		Withholding wages due.	Samuel Barter . .	Defendant agreed to pay wages claimed.
6. Francois		Quitting estate before his notice had expired	Samuel Gore . .	Ordered to return and work the two days required.

WILLIAM WALKER, J. P., and Stipendiary Magistrate.

Note.—Answer to Question, No. 1. Any Ejectments?—Nil.

Ditto, ditto, — 2. Any Vagrants?—Nil.

Ditto, ditto, — 3. Any special Contracts?—Nil.

W. WALKER, J. P.

ANTIGUA, 1841.—QUARTERLY ABSTRACT of Cases heard at the Police Office, English Harbour, before William Walker, J. P., and Stipendiary Magistrate, and George Black, J. P.

Offence.	JULY.			AUGUST.			SEPTEMBER.		
	Conv.	Dis.	TOTAL.	Conv.	Dis.	TOTAL.	Conv.	Dis.	TOTAL.
Fraud . . . .	..	3	3	..	1	1	..	..	..
Police Act	2	10	12	4	13	17	..	3	3
Trespass of Persons . .	2	..	2	1	1	2	..	..	..
Assault and Battery . .	7	6	13	7	6	13	2	..	2
Breach of Contract . .	13	1	14	7	5	12	7	..	7
Trespass of Cattle . .	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mal. Injury to Property .	5	1	6	..	1	1	..	1	1
Larceny	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vagrancy . . . .	..	..	..	1	8	9	5	1	6
Felony	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
Shooting Licence Act . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Bound over to the Peace	..	..	2	..	..	7	..	..	1
			58			62			22

Monthly Average of Cases, 47.

N. B. The small number of Cases heard in September may be accounted for by reason of there having been no Cases brought forward at two successive sittings, the larger portion of the parties being engaged in town at the Sessions.

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QUARTERLY ABSTRACT of Cases heard at Buckley's, before William Walker, J. P. and Stipendiary Magistrate, and David Cranstoun, J. P.

OFFENCE.	JULY.			AUGUST.			SEPTEMBER.		
	Conv.	Dism.	TOTAL.	Conv.	Dism.	TOTAL.	Conv.	Dism.	TOTAL.
Breach of Contract .	2	5	7	..	..	..	4	..	4
Assault and Battery .	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	2
Larceny . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Fraud . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bound over to the Peace	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
			9						13

W. WALKER, J. P. and Stipendiary Magistrate.

St. John, Antigua, 1st October, 1841.

Names of persons who under any order made by me, singly or jointly, will have been ejected during the preceding quarter from any land or buildings in virtue of powers in me vested by any law now in force in this colony.

Nil.

Names of all persons convicted during the preceding quarter by me singly, or jointly with any other magistrate, as rogues and vagabonds, or as incorrigible rogues; and the date of every such conviction, the name of the informer, the ground on which the conviction proceeded, and the nature and extent of the punishment.

4th September, 1841.—William Hamilton, Complainant;—Maria Tibner, Defendant.

The defendant, who is a common prostitute, having been committed before me of having used very obscene language, under the windows of Mr. Hamilton's house, and in the presence of his wife and family, was sentenced to ten days' imprisonment in the house of correction with hard labour.

Third—Names of all persons who, during the preceding quarters, with my concurrence or sanction, have entered into any contract for service.

Nil.

Fourth—Names of all persons against whom I have pronounced any sentence, or made any order during the preceding quarter, authorizing the infliction of any punishment for the non-performance of any contract for service, stating the date of such order or sentence, the grounds on which such order or sentence proceeded, the name of the person on the information, or at the instance of whom the same was made, and the nature and amount of the punishment awarded in each case.

19th August, 1841.—John Bell, Complainant;—Violet, Defendant.

The defendant, a labourer under a general hiring, was convicted before me of having absented herself from her work for two days without any lawful cause, and was sentenced to forfeit three days' wages, and to pay the costs, four shillings and six pence.

19th August, 1841.—William Hamilton, Complainant;—Meddy, Defendant.

The defendant, a labourer, under a general hiring, was convicted before me of having absented himself from his work for ten days without any lawful cause, and was sentenced to forfeit ten days' wages and to pay the costs.

19th August, 1841.—Joseph Hunter, Complainant;—Gatty, Defendant.

The defendant, a labourer under a general hiring, was convicted before me of having absented herself from her work for one day without any lawful cause, and was sentenced to forfeit one day's wages and to pay the costs.

28th August, 1841.—William Gore, Complainant;—Purden, Defendant.

The defendant, a domestic servant, having been convicted before me of having neglected his duty on several occasions, and in one instance of having peremptorily refused to attend his master who was coming into this town on business, was sentenced to seven day's imprisonment in the house of correction with hard labour.

4th September, 1841.—William Edwards, Complainant;—Frederic, Defendant.

The defendant, who had charge of the herd of cattle on the estate of which the complainant is the manager, permitted them to stray into a field of young canes, and was sentenced to forfeit eighteen shillings of his wages, the amount of the injury occasioned by his neglect, with costs.

4th September, 1841.—Charles Barnard, Complainant;—Pitt, Defendant.

The defendant, a labourer under a general hiring, having absented himself for three days and a half from his work without any lawful cause, was sentenced to forfeit three days and a half day's wages, five shillings and three-pence.

4th September, 1841.—Charles Barnard, Complainant;—Pit, Defendant.

The defendant, who had charge of the head of cattle on the complainant's estate, permitted them to stray into a field of young canes, and was sentenced to forfeit thirty-six shillings of his wages, the amount of the injury occasioned by his neglect.

As the united penalties in these two cases formed a large sum, to be paid by a person in the defendant's sphere of life, the costs were remitted.

18th September, 1841.—John Bell, Complainant; — Abby, Defendant.

The defendant, a labourer under a general hiring, having absented herself from her work for two days, was sentenced to forfeit two days' wages, and to pay the costs.

(Signed) JOHN GRAY, Stipendiary Justice.

It may be right for me to mention that the whole of the above fines and costs are calculated in currency at the rate of 225 exchange, or nine shillings currency to four shillings sterling.

(Signed) J. GRAY.

(No. 112.)

No. 5.

No. 5.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor MACPHAIL, Administering the Government of the Leeward Islands, to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord, Government House, Antigua, 25th November, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith the original and duplicate copies of the Antigua Blue Book for 1841, in reference to the contents of which I beg leave to submit the following remarks, premising, that from the very recent date of my Report upon the Blue Book for 1840, those remarks will of necessity be on the present occasion comprised in a much smaller compass; and moreover, that, from the record for 1841, embracing a different annual period to those which preceded it, and thus comprising a portion of 1840, no comparison can be accurately instituted between it and the Blue Book for the latter year.

* * * * *

It is right to explain that the fact of the colony having yet so large a balance in its favour, may be accounted for by the continued productiveness of the Parliamentary Import Duties exceeding as they have done any previous year, and to the receipt from the Customs' Department of upwards of £1000 sterling, arrears of surplus tonnage duty, which under some misapprehension had been retained and sent to England instead of having been paid over as they accrued to the Colonial Treasury.

I subjoin a statement of the appropriation of the Legislative Grant for the relief of the poor to those for 1839 and 1840, contained in my last Report.

1841.

	Legislative Grant.			Poor.			Medical Attendance.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
St. John's	1331	8	9	1271	16	11½	75	0	0	1346	16	11½
St. Mary	123	6	0	140	0	0	15	0	0	155	0	0
St. Peter	148	18	9	60	0	0	25	0	0	85	0	0
St. Philip	180	1	6	129	4	9				129	4	9
St. George	98	12	6	72	5	0				72	5	0
*St. Paul	367	12	6									
	2250	0	0									

* The Return for this Parish does not distinguish the items of disbursements.

Out of the public works in progress, a large proportion are of a religious and educational character, and owe their origin to the liberality of the Lord Bishop of the diocese in appropriating for the purpose the requisite funds from contributions at his disposal. Besides those enumerated in the Return, the foundations of a chapel-school have been laid at the village of Augusta, adjoining the original Independent settlement of Liberta; and to these might have been added the erection of a Central Normal School by the trustees of Lady Mico's charity, at an estimated outlay of £5000 sterling, but from the operation of causes with which I am not acquainted, preventing the assignment of a piece of waste public land for the site of the building.

In touching upon the Returns of the amounts of Imports and Exports, it becomes necessary to bear in mind that the present Returns are made for a period differing from former Returns, viz. from 30th September, 1840, to 30th September, 1841. The total value of goods termed "enumerated," on which duties are levied by the customs in virtue of Acts of the Imperial Parliament, is given for the year 1841 at £91,120 11s. 6d. sterling, being an apparent decrease

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of £19,483, but it must be borne in mind that while few vessels—indeed scarcely any from Europe—arrive during the hurricane months, the season immediately preceding the date to which the present Return is made up, the supplies received during October, November, and December, are usually very considerable, both as to quantity and value. Again the Treasury Return, from which alone can be gathered any idea of the value of British goods (*not* paying the Parliamentary duties) exhibits £161,744 as the amount of invoice values of the goods upon which the two and a half per cent. duty has been paid in the course of the year—almost the same as that for 1840, which was £161,584.

The exports of 1841 fell far short owing to the unfavourable season and the falling of prices in the home market, both in quantity and value of those of 1840. The amount is recorded at £288,379, leaving an apparent decrease to the extent of £113,573.

As much interest and anxiety are naturally, and at the present time peculiarly felt, as to the probable yielding of the sugar crop now in the ground, it may be right for me to state my belief that hopes are entertained of its proving considerably larger than that of 1841, although the rains have been neither so general nor so abundant as altogether to vanish the fears of the planters on that head.

* * * * *

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN MACPHAIL,

Lieut.-Governor, Administering the General Government.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,

&c. &c. &c.

T R I N I D A D.

SCHEDULE.

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4. Lord John Russell to Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry MacLeod.	July 14	Reply to the above Despatch	49
5. Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry MacLeod to Lord John Russell.	May 28	Submitting appointment of Emigration Agent at Sierra Leone for approval	49
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7. Lord John Russell to Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry MacLeod.	August 30	Reply to the above Despatch	51
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14. Lord Stanley to Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry MacLeod.	Nov. 18	Reply to Despatches, 17th and 28th August	61
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16. Lord Stanley to Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry MacLeod.	Dec. 27	Reply to the above Despatch	105
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18. Lord Stanley to Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry MacLeod.	1842 Feb. 18	Reply to the above Despatch	112
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P A P E R S

RELATIVE TO

T R I N I D A D.

(No. 6.)

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD to Lord JOHN RUSSELL. TRINIDAD.

My Lord, Government-house, Trinidad, 4th February, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, pursuant to Lord Glenelg's circular despatch of 1st October, 1838, the returns of Questions and Answers forwarded by the Stipendiary Magistrates of this colony, for the quarter ending the 31st December, 1840.

No. 1.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. MACLEOD, Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 1.

QUESTIONS.

1. Enumerate the names of the persons who, under any order made by you, either singly or jointly with any other magistrate, had been ejected from any land or buildings, in virtue of the powers in you vested by any law in force in this colony; specifying the extent of any such land, and the estimated value of any such land or buildings, with the situation thereof respectively; the names of the parties at whose instance every such order was made; the date of every such order; and the grounds on which it proceeded. Enclosure in No. 1.

2. Enumerate the names of all persons convicted by you, singly, or by you jointly with any other justice of the peace, as idle and disorderly persons, or as rogues and vagabonds, or as incorrigible rogues, and the date of every such conviction, the name of the informer, the ground on which the conviction proceeded, and the nature and extent of the punishment.

3. Enumerate the names of all persons who with your concurrence or sanction have entered into any contracts for service, specifying the date of such contracts, the names of the parties between whom they were made, the length of time for which they were to continue in force, and the nature and amount of the services to be rendered, and of the remuneration for such services.

4. Enumerate the names of all persons against whom you have pronounced any sentence, or made any order authorizing the infliction of any punishment for the non-performance of any contract of service, stating the date of any such sentence or order, the ground on which each such sentence or order proceeded, the name of the person on the information or at the instance of whom the same was made, and the nature and amount of the punishment awarded in each case.

The first of these returns is to be dated on the first of August, 1838, and each succeeding return from the day next following the date of the return immediately preceding it.

ANSWERS.

Western District of Police, Trinidad, Quarter of St. Ann's, October 31st, 1840.

Nil.

November 1st, 1840.

J. H. MURRAY, Stipendiary Justice.

Western District of Police, Trinidad, Quarter of St. Ann's, November 30th, 1840.

Nil.

December 1st, 1840.

J. H. MURRAY, Stipendiary Justice.

PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE

TRINIDAD.

District of Port of Spain, Trinidad, October, 1840.

Nil.

October, 1840.

JOHN JOSEPH CADIZ, Stipendiary Justice of the Peace.

District of Port of Spain, Trinidad, November, 1840.

Nil.

November, 1840.

JOHN JOSEPH CADIZ, Stipendiary Justice of the Peace.

District of Port of Spain, Trinidad, December, 1840.

Nil.

December, 1840.

JOHN JOSEPH CADIZ, Stipendiary Justice of the Peace.

District of St. Joseph, Trinidad, October 31st, 1840.

Nil.

October 31st, 1840.

JOSEPH AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of St. Joseph, Trinidad, November 30th, 1840.

Nil.

November 30th, 1840.

JOSEPH AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of St. Joseph, Trinidad, December 31st, 1840.

Nil.

December 31st, 1840.

JOSEPH AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Tacarigua, Trinidad, October, 1840.

Nil.

October, 1840.

WILLIAM GRAY, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Tacarigua, Trinidad, November, 1840.

Nil.

November, 1840.

WILLIAM GRAY, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Tacarigua, Trinidad, December, 1840.

Nil.

December, 1840.

WILLIAM GRAY, Stipendiary Justice.

Eastern District, Trinidad, October, 1840.

Nil.

Mayaro, 1st November, 1840.

JOHN SCOTT, Stipendiary Justice.

Eastern District, Trinidad, November, 1840.

Nil.

Mayaro, 1st December, 1840.

JOHN SCOTT, Stipendiary Justice.

Eastern District, Trinidad, December, 1840.

Nil.

Mayaro, 1st January, 1841.

JOHN SCOTT, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, 1st November, 1840.

Nil.

Carapichaima, 1st November, 1840.

P. R. ROUSSEAU, Acting Stipendiary Justice.

District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, from the 1st to the 30th November, 1840.

Nil.

(A true Return.)

P. R. ROUSSEAU, Acting Stipendiary Justice.

District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, from 1st to 31st December, 1840.

Nil.

(A true Return.)

AND. DAVID, Stipendiary Justice.

District of North Naparima, Trinidad, from 1st to 31st October, 1840.

Nil.

31st October, 1840.

CHARLES FRED. KNOX, Stip. J. P., N. N. D.

District of North Naparima, Trinidad, from 1st to 30th November, 1840.

Nil.

30th November, 1840.

CHARLES FRED. KNOX Stip. J P, N. N. D.

District of North Naparima, Trinidad, from 1st to 31st December, 1840.

Nil.

31st December, 1840.

CHARLES FRED. KNOX, Stip. J. P., N. N. D.

District of South Naparima, Trinidad, 31st October, 1840.

Nil.

31st October, 1840.

BENITO G. FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

District of South Naparima, Trinidad, 30th November, 1840.

Nil.

30th November, 1840.

BENITO G. FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

District of South Naparima, Trinidad, 31st December, 1840.

Nil.

31st December, 1840.

BENITO G. FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

Southern District of Trinidad, 31st October, 1840.

Nil.

31st October, 1840.

HENRY FARLEY, S. J. P., S. D.

Southern District of Trinidad, 30th November, 1840.

Nil.

30th November, 1840.

HENRY FARLEY, S. J. P., S. D.

Southern District of Trinidad, 31st December, 1840.

TRINIDAD.

(No. 37.)

No. 2.

Enclosure in No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government-house, Trinidad, 29th April, 1841.

No. 2.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, pursuant to Lord Glenelg's circular despatch of 1st October, 1838, the returns of Questions and Answers forwarded by the Stipendiary Magistrates of this colony, for the quarter ending the 31st March last.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

H. MACLEOD, Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 2.

QUESTIONS.

1. Enumerate the names of the persons who, under any order made by you either singly or jointly with any other magistrate, had been ejected from any land or buildings, in virtue of the powers in you vested by any law in force in this colony; specifying the extent of any such land, and the estimated value of any such land or buildings, with the situation thereof respectively; the names of the parties at whose instance every such order was made; the date of every such order; and the grounds on which it proceeded.

2. Enumerate the names of all persons convicted by you, singly, or by you jointly with any other justice of the peace, as idle and disorderly persons, or as rogues and vagabonds, or as incorrigible rogues, and the date of every such conviction, the name of the informer, the ground on which the conviction proceeded, and the nature and extent of the punishment.

3. Enumerate the names of all persons who with your concurrence or sanction have entered into any contracts for service, specifying the date of such contracts, the names of the parties between whom they were made, the length of time for which they were to continue in force, and the nature and amount of the services to be rendered, and the remuneration for such services.

4. Enumerate the names of all persons against whom you have pronounced any sentence, or made any order authorizing the infliction of any punishment for the non-performance of any contract of service, stating the date of any such sentence or order, the ground on which each such sentence or order proceeded, the name of the person on the information or at the instance of whom the same was made, and the nature and amount of the punishment awarded in each case.

The first of these returns is to be dated on the 1st of August, 1838, and each succeeding return from the day next following the date of the return immediately preceding it.

ANSWERS.

District of Port of Spain, Trinidad, January, 1841.

Nil.

January, 1841.

JOHN JOSEPH CADIZ, Police Magistrate.

District of Port of Spain, Trinidad, February, 1841.

Nil.

February, 1841.

JOHN JOSEPH CADIZ, Police Magistrate.

District of Port of Spain, Trinidad, March, 1841.

1, Nil.

2. John Baptiste, convicted by John Joseph Cadiz, Esq., on the 17th day of March, 1841, of being a rogue and a vagabond, on the information on oath of Michael Bang, a serjeant of police; for that he, the said John Baptiste, on the 17th day of March, 1841, at Port of Spain, and within the lands of the Port of Spain police district, did play and bet in King Street, being a public place, with certain

District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, from 1st to 31st January, 1841.

Nil.

January, 1841.

ANDREW DAVID, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, from 1st to 28th February, 1841.

Nil.

February, 1841.

ANDREW DAVID, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, from 1st to 31st March, 1841.

Nil.

March, 1841.

ANDREW DAVID, Stipendiary Justice.

Eastern District, Trinidad, February 1st, 1841.

Nil.

February 1st, 1841.

JOHN SCOTT, Stipendiary Justice.

Eastern District, Trinidad, March 1st, 1841.

Nil.

March 1st, 1841.

JOHN SCOTT, Stipendiary Justice.

Eastern District, Trinidad, April 1st, 1841.

Nil.

April 1st, 1841.

JOHN SCOTT, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Tacarigua, Trinidad, January, 1841.

Nil.

January, 1841.

WM. GRAY, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Tacarigua, Trinidad, February, 1841.

1, 2, 3, Nil.

4. Sterrit entered into a verbal contract with William Power, manager of Paradise Estate, to superintend the carts of the Paradise Estate, at the rate of 13 dollars and 40 cents per month. That on the 7th day of the month of January last past, the said William Power received a letter from the proprietor of the said Paradise Estate (O. W. Span, Esq.) to send to town a certain number of carts to receive the baggage of the said O. W. Span; that on the morning of the 8th January, the manager (Wm. Power) sent six carts to town under the superintendence of Sterrit, with directions from him (Wm. Power) to make inquiry at the counting-house of Messrs. Gray, Losh and Co., where the baggage of the proprietor (O. W. Span) was to be found. Sterrit wholly neglected and refused to take out to the Paradise Estate the baggage of the said O. W. Span; the whole of the carts quitted town soon after seven o'clock, A.M., without executing the manager's order. Complainant, William Power. The said Sterrit convicted on the 4th day of February, 1841, and sentenced to pay the sum of 13 dollars and 40 cents, being the amount of onemonth's wages, as a pecuniary penalty for the benefit of his employer.

February, 1841.

WM. GRAY, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Tacarigua, Trinidad, March, 1841.

1, 2, 3, Nil.

4. Warwick entered into a verbal contract with John Agard, manager of the Waterloo Estate, the property of Robert Bushe, Esq., to carry canes to the mill of said Waterloo Estate, at the rate of 6s. currency per diem. That on the 24th day of February, 1841, about the hour of four o'clock in the afternoon, defendant refused to carry canes to the mill, stating that the other labourers were fools to go on with their work; and in consequence of defendant's refusing to carry canes to the mill, the gang who were feeding the mill with canes went away, and in consequence of defendant's conduct the mill was stopped on that day. Defendant found guilty on the 1st day of March, 1841. Sentence—To pay the sum of nine dollars, being the amount of fifteen days' labour, as a pecuniary penalty for the benefit of his employer. Complainant, John Agard.

Caleb Quildom and John Charles, entered into a contract (verbal) with Lionel Lee, part proprietor of the Orange Grove Estate, in wheeling mogass from the mill to the mogass-house, at the rate of 6s. currency per diem; that on the 15th day of March, 1841, the chain of the mogass carrier got deranged; that defendants were ordered to clear away the mogass, in order that the chain might be repaired; they (defendants) wholly refused, and neglected to do as ordered. In consequence of such neglect on the parts of defendants, the mill was stopped for the space of three hours, and a great loss incurred on the part of the proprietors. Complainant, Lionel Lee. Defendants found guilty on the 22nd day of March, 1841. Sentence—To pay the sum of nine dollars each, being the amount of fifteen days' labour, as a pecuniary penalty for the benefit of their employer.

Hiliare entered into a verbal contract with Lionel Lee, part proprietor of the Orange Grove Estate, as foreman, at the rate of 6s. currency per diem. That on the 16th day of March, 1841, one Bailey, engineer on said Orange Grove Estate, left Hiliare (defendant) in charge of the engine-fire, and went to his house for the purpose of taking his dinner; the steam of said engine was up when Bailey left the defendant in charge of the engine-fire; that on his (Bailey's) return, he found the steam of the engine down, and defendant asleep, and in consequence of such neglect on the part of the defendant the engine stopped. Complainant, Lionel Lee. Defendant found guilty on the 22nd day of March, 1841. Sentence—To pay the sum of nine dollars, being the amount of fifteen days' labour, as a pecuniary penalty for the benefit of his employer.

March, 1841.

WM. GRAY, Stipendiary Justice.

TRINIDAD.

District of St. Joseph, Trinidad, 31st January, 1841.

31st January, 1841. Nil. Jos. AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of St. Joseph, Trinidad, 1st March, 1841.

1st March, 1841. Nil. Jos. AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of St. Joseph, Trinidad, 31st March, 1841.

31st March, 1841. Nil. Jos. AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of South Naparima, Trinidad, 31st January, 1841.

31st January, 1841. Nil. BENITO G. FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

District of South Naparima, Trinidad, 28th February, 1841.

28th February, 1841. Nil. BENITO G. FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

District of South Naparima, Trinidad, 31st March, 1841.

31st March, 1841. Nil. BENITO G. FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

Southern District of Trinidad, 1st February, 1841.

1st February, 1841. Nil. HY. FARLEY, S. J. P., Sou. Dis.

Southern District of Trinidad, 1st March, 1841.

1st March, 1841. Nil. HY. FARLEY, S. J. P., Sou. Dis.

Southern District of Trinidad, 1st April, 1841.

1st April, 1841. Nil. HY. FARLEY, S. J. P., Sou. Dis.

District of North Naparima, Trinidad, from 1st to 31st January, 1841.

31st January, 1841. Nil. CHARLES FRED. KNOX, Stipendiary Justice.

District of North Naparima, Trinidad, from 1st to 28th February, 1841.

28th February, 1841. Nil. CHARLES FRED. KNOX, Stipendiary Justice.

District of North Naparima, Trinidad, from 1st to 31st March, 1841.

31st March, 1841. Nil. CHARLES FRED. KNOX, Stipendiary Justice.

Western District of Police, Trinidad, Quarter of St. Ann's, 31st January, 1841.

TRINIDAD.

Nil.

1st February, 1841.

J. H. MURRAY, Stipendiary Justice, West. Dist.

Western District of Police, Trinidad, Quarter of St. Ann's, 28th February, 1841.

Nil.

1st March, 1841.

J. H. MURRAY, Stipendiary Justice, West. Dist.

Western District of Police, Trinidad, Quarter of St. Ann's, 31st March, 1841.

Nil.

1st April, 1841.

J. H. MURRAY, Stipendiary Justice West. Dist.

(No. 45.)

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD, to
Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 20th May, 1841.

I HASTEN to inform your Lordship of the arrival of 181 immigrants from
Sierra Leone.

No. 3.

As there has been much diversity of opinion on the question of African emigration, I have considered that you would wish to be put in possession of the earliest information connected with this, our first attempt at procuring labourers from that country; and I herewith transmit certain documentary proceedings relative thereto, as the mode best calculated to give your Lordship a true view of the subject.

I am happy to report that these people arrived in good health after a passage of twenty-eight days, and I was rejoiced to find them much more advanced in every way than I had expected, all speaking good English, and many able to read and write.

This is to be traced to the Church Missionary and Methodist Societies, and reflects the highest credit on the exertions of these bodies.

I have seldom met persons more alive to their own interests, but I have recommended them to hire themselves in bodies of eight or ten; for, besides thus diminishing the feeling of strangeness, always more or less felt in a new country, it gives them a sort of mutual protection. I have also, as far as consistent with their free will, given the preference to estates in the districts nearest to the seat of Government.

Sixteen of these immigrants are Kroomen, vastly superior in appearance and bearing to the other races. They generally confine their labour to the shipping, but the high wages and other advantages on the estates have tempted even these to take that employment; but I do not look to their remaining at that work, and their return to their usual occupation will be of great value to the shipping ports.

We must not look to these people as settlers, but, if this island answers their expectations they tell me great numbers of their countrymen will come. They perfectly understand the facility afforded to them of returning to their native country by working their passage *via* England, and they are all, I believe, expert seamen. We shall thus establish a constant communication with Africa.

I enclose a statement of the terms upon which these immigrants have agreed on, but your Lordship will understand that they are perfectly free agents, and may leave their employers whenever they choose.

As this is an experiment which I always advocated, I shall naturally be most anxious on the subject, and your Lordship may depend upon the fullest information on all things connected with it that Her Majesty's Government should be made acquainted with.

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

H. MACLEOD, Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c.

&c. &c. &c.

H

TRINIDAD.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Enclosure in No. 3. COPY of a Letter from His Excellency Sir JOHN JEREMIE, Kt., Governor of Sierra Leone, to the Managers of the respective Districts.

Sir,

Freetown, 18th March, 1841.

Two gentlemen of great respectability have arrived in this colony with a view of enabling such portions of its population as choose to avail themselves of the opportunity, to proceed, principally as agricultural labourers, to the West Indies.

And as this is a matter of much importance, it appears to me desirable you should be instructed not in any way to interfere with their proceedings, which you are neither to encourage nor discourage.

The people are free to go, or to remain, exactly as they see fit; at the same time, if any fears you consider unreal, or if any hopes you consider delusive, are held out to the population of your district, you will have the goodness to inform me.

I am, &c.,

(Signed)

J. JEREMIE.

The Managers of the respective Districts,
Sierra Leone.

Notice to Emigrants to the Island of Trinidad.

In addition to being furnished with a house and provision grounds, they will receive for each task half a dollar in money, an allowance of half a pound of fish per task, and a small allowance of rum, or of money in lieu thereof, for each task, two of which are frequently performed in one day.

18th March, 1841.

W. HAMILTON.

PROCLAMATION.

BY His Excellency Sir JOHN JEREMIE, Kt., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Sierra Leone, and its Dependencies, between the 20th degree of North, and the 20th degree of South Latitude, Vice-Admiral, Chancellor and Ordinary of the same, &c.

JOHN JEREMIE, the Governor, being required to substitute by Proclamation, for the articles of food and provision specified in the Act of Parliament passed in the 5 and 6 years of the reign of His late Majesty King William the 4th, for "Regulating the carriage of Passengers in Merchant Vessels," such other articles of food and provisions as shall be equivalent for the same, having regard to the average duration of the voyage, and to the number of the passengers to be conveyed in any such ship, in such manner that the proportion prescribed in the said recited Act, between the probable number of days to be occupied by the voyage, and the number of days during which provision is made for the subsistence of the passengers, shall be duly preserved.

The Governor now proclaims that the following scale for Victualling Adult Emigrants from Sierra Leone, shall be established, for that set forth in the before recited Act, viz.—

- 1 Quart Rice, or 3 lbs. Yams, or Cocoas, or 1 lb. Biscuit.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Salt Pork, or Salt Fish, or Herrings.
- 2 Gills Palm Oil.
- $\frac{1}{4}$ Gill Salt.
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ Gallon Water.

For Children, in the proportions settled by the Act.

And it is Ordered, that on board each and every ship carrying African Emigrants, there shall be a provision of at least 1 lb. of Yams, or Cocoas, per day, for each and every Adult Passenger.

And it is also Ordered, that the passage from Sierra Leone, and from the Gambia to Jamaica, or any other of Her Majesty's Possessions in the West Indies, shall be considered likely to endure Eight Weeks, and from any part of the Gold Coast, Eleven Weeks.

Given at Government-House, this Thirtieth Day of March, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-one, and of Her Majesty's Reign the Fourth.

By His Excellency's command,

N. W. MACDONALD, Colonial Secretary.

God Save the Queen!

Statement of the Terms on which the Immigrants from Sierra Leone have been engaged.

For each task, half a dollar, or 2s. 1d. sterling, with an allowance of half a pound of salt-fish, pork, or beef, for each task, with a certain quantity of flour, rice, biscuit, or other farinaceous food.

House, slated, tiled, or shingled, and floored.

As much land as they may choose to cultivate for a garden.

And medical attendance and medicines, in case of sickness, free of charge or deduction.

THOMAS F. JOHNSTON,

Agent General of Immigrants.

TRINIDAD.

(No. 127.)

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD.

Sir, Downing-street, 14th July, 1841.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 45, of 20th May, reporting the arrival in Trinidad of 181 immigrants from Sierra Leone, and the measures you have adopted for obtaining them employment; your judicious conduct on this occasion meets my entire approval.

No. 4.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry Macleod,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 48.)

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord, Trinidad, 23th May, 1841.

No. 5.

A DEPUTATION from the Agricultural Society waited on me some days ago to request that I would appoint Mr. Hamilton, who has recently arrived here with the settlers from Sierra Leone, Emigration Agent for Trinidad at that place.

It is a matter of great importance to this colony, as we have to compete with others of larger resources, to have an active and intelligent person in that capacity, and I have named Mr. Hamilton to that situation, on a salary of £500 sterling per annum, subject, of course, to your Lordship's approval.

But there are parts of Mr. Hamilton's letter which your Lordship would, I am sure, wish to be made acquainted with, in order that the Governor of Sierra Leone should likewise be put in possession of the fact that it is contemplated, it would appear, to carry this emigration beyond the limits of his settlement.

This however, under His Excellency's surveillance, may, perhaps, be productive of great good, as establishing a communication with the adjacent tribes. I beg your Lordship will be good enough to cause Sir John Jeremie to be informed also that I adopt the terms offered in Mr. Hamilton's notice, dated the 18th of March; but that I request it may be distinctly understood that the house and provision-grounds are part of the wages, and not a distinct gift. It is quite fair that these people, leaving their own homes, should be fully aware that no land is granted to them, but that they become labourers for hire on terms highly advantageous, certainly, in a pecuniary point of view.

I hope the true statement of what people are to expect, will not cause the island to benefit less at the beginning of this emigration than the other colonies, but I am told that some of the immigrants were under the impression that land would be granted to them in the West Indies. I am sure your Lordship will see my only motive in correcting this idea, is, that while I am bound to move in any thing that can prosper this fine island, I am likewise called on to protect the ignorant from being tempted to leave their present abode on false promises and expectations that cannot be realized.

Your Lordship may be assured of the utmost exertion being made to cause every thing to be fulfilled that has been held out to those who may come, and I have no hesitation in saying, that in none of Her Majesty's colonies, have the rights and privileges of the labouring population been more respected by the persons employing them, than in Trinidad.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. MACLEOD, Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,

TRINIDAD.

Enclosure in No. 5.

Sir,

Port of Spain, Trinidad, 24th May, 1841.

Enclosure in No. 5.

IN reply to your letter of 22nd instant, forwarding a resolution of the Agricultural Society, "That Mr. Hamilton be requested to accept the situation of Emigration Agent for this colony at Sierra Leone, provided His Excellency the Governor consents to make the appointment, and annex thereto a suitable salary; and that Mr. Hamilton be further requested to inform the Committee, in writing, through the Secretary, what remuneration he would expect to receive for efficiently discharging the duties of such office."

I have to request you will express to the Committee that I feel highly honoured at being considered worthy of being offered the appointment of Emigration Agent at Sierra Leone, an appointment involving interests of such magnitude and importance to this colony, and I beg you will assure the Committee that I shall be proud and happy to accept such situation, should His Excellency the Governor consent to make the appointment.

With respect to the remuneration which should attach to such appointment, I beg to submit the following considerations for the information of the Committee.

It would be desirable that the Society's agent at Sierra Leone should be placed on such a footing as would allow him to devote his time and attention to the interests of the colony entirely, and to the exclusion of all other pecuniary considerations, with a salary which would give him some weight in the colony generally, and particularly with the Alicarlie and neighbouring chiefs on the Ro Kelle, and in the Timmanee and Sherbro countries, if the Committee coincide in the opinion of the desirableness of an internal emigration.

In the discharge of the duties of emigration, the agent would find it desirable to visit the several settlements on the coast; to keep a horse, and a boat, to visit the villages and sea districts of the colony, as well as the adjacent rivers.

Having been at Sierra Leone in the receipt of £400 per annum, with a house allowed me, I abandoned these to avail myself of the opportunities which that colony offers for improving my circumstances; seeing that any person engaged in the business of the colony, acting with ordinary prudence and activity, would find no difficulty in placing himself in the receipt of £1000 per annum.

Although the last subject brought under the consideration of the Committee, unquestionably the first in importance, the risk of life and the certainty of sickness (to judge from the experience of former residence), together with the deprivation of all family associations, would suggest the necessity of looking for a liberal remuneration.

Under these circumstances I beg to observe that a prudent, not to say an imperative consideration for personal circumstances, would not warrant my banishing myself to Sierra Leone under £1000 per annum.

I have, &c.

W. HAMILTON.

John Losh, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

Notice to Emigrants to the Island of Trinidad.

IN addition to being furnished with a house and provision grounds, they will receive for each task half a dollar in money, an allowance of half a pound of fish per task, and a small allowance of rum, or of money in lieu thereof, for each task, two of which are frequently performed in one day.

18th March, 1841.

(Signed) W. HAMILTON.

(No. 59.)

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 25th June, 1841.

No. 6.

I HAVE the honour to enclose certain resolutions adopted at a numerous meeting of the inhabitants of this colony.

Your Lordship will perceive that my official support and recommendation in their favour is asked for in the 4th resolution. There is only one remark I feel called on to make, and that is as to the capability of the island to produce sugar.

Upon this, I should observe, that the soil is inexhaustible, and with sufficient

Enclosure in No. 6.

TRINIDAD.

Port of Spain, Trinidad, 22nd June, 1841.

Enclosure in No. 6.

1. **RESOLVED**,—That to expend thousands with one hand in attempting to repress the traffic in Slaves with an armed force, whilst with the other we are to open the door of the home-market of Great Britain for the consumption of the produce of their labour—thus directly encouraging the traffic we profess our determination to abolish, by enhancing the profit of the slave-owner—is a line of policy unintelligible to West Indian Colonists, and one which, if persevered in, cannot but impair the confidence they would ever wish to entertain in the wisdom and justice of the councils of the mother country.

2. **Resolved**,—That the plea of necessity for the introduction of sugar raised by the compulsory labour of slaves into home consumption is unfounded; as the island of Trinidad alone, from its extent and fertility, is capable, with a sufficient labouring population, of producing more sugar than the inhabitants of Great Britain can consume, and at a cheaper rate by free labour than it can be raised in Cuba and Brazil, where slavery prevails; provided the restrictions which now impede the free current of immigration be removed, and an adequate protecting duty be continued to the British grower, until such time as he can procure and render available such labour.

3. **Resolved**,—That this desirable object, by which the institutions of slavery would be gradually but peaceably undermined in every part of the world, could be effected in a short period of time, by only granting to the inhabitants of Trinidad the benefit of the principles which govern the just distribution of free labour, which are clearly consistent with the strictest rules of Christian philanthropy, and which were solemnly proclaimed as binding upon the nation and government when they divested West Indian colonists of property created by law, and abolished institutions which for centuries had been encouraged and supported by our national power and resources.

4. **Resolved**,—That the following gentlemen, viz., the Honourables W. H. Burnley, Henry Murray, John Losh, and Henry Scott; George Ramsay, Robert Guppy, Robert Bushe, Robert Dennistoun, St. Luce Philip, M.D., F. J. Swift, and W. G. Knox, Esquires, be deputed to wait upon his Excellency the Governor with a copy of the resolutions now passed, respectfully to request him to forward them immediately to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, and to solicit his Excellency's official support and recommendation in their favour.

Passed at a public meeting of the inhabitants of the colony held in Port of Spain,
(Signed) WILLIAM H. BURNLEY, Chairman.

(No. 140.)

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30th August, 1841.

I HAVE received your despatch, No. 59, of the 25th June, enclosing resolutions adopted at a meeting of inhabitants at Trinidad.

No. 7.

It is satisfactory to learn from one of these resolutions, confirmed by your own opinion, that the island is capable of producing sugar to such an extent.

Her Majesty's Government have done much to remove impediments to the introduction of free labour into the West Indies; by which means, as the resolution affirms, the cultivation of sugar may be carried on at a cheaper rate than where slavery prevails.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry MacLeod,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 64.)

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 3rd July, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the returns of Questions and Answers forwarded by the Stipendiary Magistrates of this colony, for the quarter ended the 30th June, 1841, pursuant to Lord Glenelg's circular despatch of 1st October, 1838.

No. 8.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H MACLEOD, Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

TRINIDAD.

Enclosure in No. 8.

QUESTIONS.

- Enclosure in No. 8. 1. Enumerate the names of the persons who, under any order made by you either singly or jointly with any other magistrate, had been ejected from any land or buildings, in virtue of the powers in you vested by any law in force in this Colony; specifying the extent of any such land and the estimated value of any such land or buildings, with the situation thereof respectively; the names of the parties at whose instance every such order was made; the date of every such order; and the grounds on which it proceeded.
2. Enumerate the names of all persons convicted by you, singly, or by you jointly with any other justice of the peace, as idle and disorderly persons, or as rogues and vagabonds, or as incorrigible rogues, and the date of every such conviction, the name of the informer, the ground on which the conviction proceeded, and the nature and extent of the punishment.
3. Enumerate the names of all persons who with your concurrence or sanction have entered into any contracts for service, specifying the date of such contracts, the names of the parties between whom they were made, the length of time for which they were to continue in force, and the nature and amount of the services to be rendered, and of the remuneration for such services.
4. Enumerate the names of all persons against whom you have pronounced any sentence, or made any order authorizing the infliction of any punishment for the non-performance of any contract of service, stating the date of any such sentence or order, the ground on which each such sentence or order proceeded, the name of the person on the information or at the instance of whom the same was made, and the nature and amount of the punishment awarded in each case.
- The first of these returns is to be dated on the 1st of August, 1838, and each succeeding return from the day next following the date of the return immediately preceding it.

ANSWERS.

Southern District, Trinidad, Cedros, 1st May, 1841.

Nil.

1st May, 1841.

HENRY FARLEY, S. J. P.

Southern District, Trinidad, Cedros, 1st June, 1841.

Nil.

1st June, 1841.

HENRY FARLEY, S. J. P.

District of North Naparima, Trinidad, from 1st to 30th April, 1841.

Nil.

30th April, 1841.

CHARLES FRED. KNOX, S. J. P., N. N. D.

District of North Naparima, Trinidad, from 1st to 31st May, 1841.

Nil.

31st May, 1841.

CHARLES FRED. KNOX, S. J. P., N. N. P.

District of North Naparima, Trinidad, from 1st to 30th June, 1841.

Nil.

30th June, 1841.

CHARLES FRED. KNOX, S. J. D.

District of South Naparima, Trinidad, 30th April, 1841.

Nil.

30th April, 1841.

BENITO G. FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

District of South Naparima, Trinidad, 31st May, 1841.

Nil.

31st May, 1841.

BENITO G. FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

District of South Naparima, Trinidad, 30th June, 1841.

Nil.

30th June, 1841.

BENITO G. FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, from 1st to 31st May, 1841.

1. Jeanne Julienne Brousselle, otherwise called Madame Gilles Brousselle, convicted before me, on the information, on oath, of Toussaint Rostant, one of the Commissioners of Roads for this district, acting under the authority granted to him by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, on the behalf of the Surveyor-General, of having, without probable claim or pretence of title, entered upon, and taken possession of, five quarrées of land, in the quarter of Couva, the property of Her Majesty the Queen, within one year next before the day of the preferring the said information. Ordered, on the 7th May, 1841, to deliver up to the said Toussaint Rostant, acting under the authority and on the behalf aforesaid, in fifteen days, the quiet and peaceable possession of the said five quarrées of land for the use and benefit of Her Majesty the Queen.

2, 3, 4, Nil.

(A true return.)

AND. DAVID, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, from 1st to 30th June, 1841.

Nil.

(A true return.)

AND. DAVID, Stipendiary Justice.

Eastern District of Police, Trinidad, 1st April, 1841.

Nil.

1st April, 1841.

P. R. ROUSSEAU, Stipendiary Justice.

Eastern District of Police, Trinidad, 1st May, 1841.

Nil.

1st May, 1841.

P. R. ROUSSEAU, Stipendiary Justice.

Eastern District of Police, Trinidad, 1st June, 1841.

Nil.

1st June, 1841.

P. R. ROUSSEAU, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Tacarigua, Trinidad, April, 1841.

Nil.

15th May, 1841.

JOS. AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Tacarigua, Trinidad, May, 1841.

Nil.

May, 1841.

JOS. AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Tacarigua, Trinidad, June, 1841.

Nil.

June, 1841.

JOS. AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of St. Joseph, Trinidad, 30th April, 1841.

Nil.

30th April, 1841.

JOS. AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of St. Joseph's, Trinidad, 31st May, 1841.

Nil.

31st May, 1841.

JOS. AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of St. Joseph, Trinidad, 30th June, 1841.

Nil.

30th June, 1841.

JOS. AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

Western District of Police, Trinidad, Quarter of St. Ann's, 30th April, 1841.

Nil.

1st May, 1841.

J. H. MURRAY, Stipendiary Justice.

Western District of Police, Trinidad, Quarter of St. Ann's, 31st May, 1841.

Nil.

June 1st, 1841.

J. H. MURRAY, Stipendiary Justice.

Western District of Police, Trinidad, Quarter of St. Ann's, 30th June, 1841.

Nil.

1st July, 1841.

J. H. MURRAY, Stipendiary Magistrate.

TRINIDAD.

District of Port of Spain, Trinidad, 1st May, 1841.

Nil.

1st May, 1841.

JOHN JOSEPH CADIZ, Stipendiary Justice of the Peace.

District of Port of Spain, Trinidad, 1st June, 1841.

Nil.

1st June, 1841.

JOHN JOSEPH CADIZ, Stipendiary Justice of the Peace.

District of Port of Spain, Trinidad, 30th June, 1841.

Nil.

30th June, 1841.

JOHN JOSEPH CADIZ, Police Magistrate, and S. J. P.

(No. 69.)

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD to
Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 6th July, 1841.

No. 9.

I ENCLOSE the first half-yearly Report from the Stipendiary Magistrates, according to the new form, received on the 4th of June last; and I consider them altogether made with impartiality and intelligence.

1. Your Lordship will perceive that all the magistrates agree in the improvement of the character and condition of the people, but admit that the allowance of spirits as part of the wages is a great drawback to their more rapid advance.

2. The system of small freehold is fast extending, and although in one district the magistrate seems to think this has withdrawn some hands from the cultivation of sugar, yet I must remark, that they are usefully employed in supplying the town of San Fernando with very necessary articles; and it is most satisfactory to observe that, although ceasing one employment, they have not remained in idleness, but have assumed another, that they most likely have found more profitable.

3. In some instances, the magistrates seem merely to have enumerated the number of churches and schools, without defining those just built; several of each are, however, in progress in different parts of the island, the Colonial Government defraying half the cost.

4. The crop this year is a good average, and from the number of immigrants arrived, and the favourable weather for the growing crop, the next bids fair to be a very much larger one.

5. Nil.

6. The internal traffic is increased to a very great extent, principally carried on by hucksters, and in small retail shops. The best idea to give of this will be by comparing the amount of revenue arising from imports for the past, with the preceding year.

In 1839, the amount was . . . £ 8,521

In 1840, „ „ . . . 11,443

I conceive that the questions, to which I have above alluded, refer entirely to the state of the peasantry, and as there seem to be only two points of complaint against the labourer—one for inebriety, and the other a roving habit, I need but make the following remarks thereon.

The first is thought to be from a pernicious system of giving a large allowance of rum; the second, which is almost entirely confined to the immigrants from the other islands, is supposed to be from a certainty of obtaining employment everywhere. Both of these arise from the very great competition for labour.

My own conviction is, that they can only be cured by substituting money for allowances, and by giving the labourer some interest in the soil by establishing villages and hamlets (which are already begun), and by the adoption of the system of rent; for it is impossible to suppose that the slightest attachment to locality can

tions of coin are made use of by the magistrates in noticing the rate of the wages paid, in their several districts, yet the amount of wages throughout the colony is 2s. 1d. sterling for each task, with certain allowances, such as house, grounds, salt provisions, and rum.

I have, &c.
H. MACLEOD, Lieut.-Governor.

(Signed)

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
 &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 9.

QUESTIONS.

1. General character and condition of the peasantry.—Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners, habits, or tastes; in the rate of mortality; or in the nature and frequency of offences. Enclosure in No. 9.
2. Relations between the peasantry and the proprietors.—Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates; to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders;—to the rising up of new hamlets and villages;—and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.
3. New institutions:—as churches, schools, savings' banks, benefit societies, &c.
4. State and prospects of cultivation:—noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages; the produce of the last crop, and the promise of the next; the weather, &c.
5. Improvements and discoveries: as for instance, any new machine by which labour is saved; any improved method of cultivation; any new manufacture, &c.
6. State of internal traffic:—noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

ANSWERS.

District of Port of Spain, Trinidad, 30th June, 1841.

1. The general character of the lately emancipated peasantry, in the district of Port of Spain, is good. Their condition is very perceptibly improved, as are their manners, habits, and tastes, much altered for the better. They have a greater command of money, are industriously disposed; dress infinitely better, and allow themselves in a greater variety of good fare; their social meetings are conducted with greater order, decency, and quietness. The rate of mortality, I should say, has diminished among them, and would be considerably less did they justly appreciate the value of medical care and attendance in the earlier stages of their illness. During the first year of absolute freedom, I mean after the abolition of the apprenticeship, in August, 1838, there were numerous complaints of petty thefts, assaults and batteries, and drunkenness, but I am now happy to say, that complaints of this kind have been reduced to perhaps less than 50 per cent. They have become more steady, and fixed to particular pursuits, and they are comparatively seldom brought before me for drunkenness.
2. There are no estates in the district over which I preside, which only embraces the town of Port of Spain and its suburbs; a near calculation of its population will probably amount to about fifteen thousand souls, (the last census was taken in 1839 under my superintendence, and it then amounted to upwards of thirteen thousand); a great number of the peasantry have purchased small tracts of land or building lots, in the suburbs of the town, and have erected houses thereupon, upon an average of the value of from eighty to one hundred pounds sterling, most of which they occupy themselves, whilst some hire them out on rent. Most of these people are employed in town as carters, servants, hucksters, carpenters, masons, and in cultivating guinea-grass, for which they meet ready sale every day. During crop-time many of these people go into the rural districts, and employ themselves on estates, where they receive a better rate of pay, not only as mechanics, but as labourers. This accounts for the scarcity of domestics in Port of Spain, and of depending upon those who offer themselves as such. A new town or village, to the westward of Port of Spain, and included within its suburbs, has lately been formed. It is rapidly increasing in new houses, principally owned by persons whom I have formerly known as slaves and apprentices. I have reason to believe that this establishment is the means of affording ready labouring hands to the adjacent estates, especially during crop season.
3. I am not aware of any new institutions established within the present half-year.
4. This query does not apply to the Port of Spain district.
5. Idem.
6. The labourers of the rural districts bring into the town-market ground provisions and poultry, for which they meet ready sale; and in return, they purchase dry goods and provisions. There is no particular sort of goods in demand. The principal supply of plantains, corn, and poultry, is derived from the Spanish main.

30th June, 1841.

JOHN JOSEPH CADIZ, Police Magistrate & S. J. P.

Western District of Trinidad, ending 30th June, 1841.

1. The peasantry are quiet and orderly, labouring at the leisure just sufficient to maintain themselves; no complaining either against the government or prices of provisions, but being comfortable and contented. Offences of a grave nature far less frequent, and advancing in morality proportionate to their instructions; nevertheless all drink too much rum, though a few only exhibit its ill effects; and that class employed as servants much addicted to pilfering and stealing.
2. None further than this, that the labourers are allowed to inhabit the houses on the estates, receiving salt fish and rum, and the ordinary wages whilst they work for such estate exclusively, but no longer. It does not appear that the labourers establish themselves as freeholders on any of the

TRINIDAD.

sugar estates, except on those that are abandoned, or sold in lots. Many of the labourers have freeholds, on one particularly, in this district, called Green Hill Estate, where there are between 80 and 100 freeholds, forming a village called Bowen's village. On almost all the coffee and cocoa estates there are freeholds; indeed the Western District, including the Hills, is studded with such freeholders and lessees for terms of 5 or 7 years, the lessees paying low rents, and sharing the produce with the proprietors.

3. One Methodist chapel at Bowen's village, and a Roman Catholic chapel at Cocorite. One new Mico Charity-school in the western part of the district, and two in the eastern.

4. Good, and most particularly promising this year; all the estates in the western district, with the exception of one or two, tolerably well supplied with labourers; those near Port of Spain more than sufficiently. The produce of the last crop amounted to 1000 hhds. The rate of wages 4s., 5s., and 6s. currency, with salt fish and rum.

5. Nil.

6. All carried on by hucksters, who carry trays into the country with salt provisions, oil, and dry goods, such as muslins, checks, handkerchiefs, &c., exchanging them for coffee or other produce of the country generally, and for money when it is to be had. Muslins, checks, and ready-made clothes seem most in demand.

J. H. MURRAY, Stipendiary Justice.

District of St. Joseph, Trinidad, 30th June, 1841.

1. In the district the character of the peasantry is generally good, and the peasants strive to make their condition respectable. A great improvement has taken place in their manners and taste; their habits are extravagant, denying themselves nothing. Immediately after the dissolution of the Apprenticeship, there were many broils and quarrels, and assaults committed upon each other, occasioned by drunkenness. Such and other petty offences are now not common, and capital crimes are very rare. The rate of mortality is not so great, and they are more healthy. There would be still greater improvements in their habits and health, if the practice of supplying them with such a large quantity of rum upon estates were discontinued (as many of their sicknesses are occasioned by making use to excess of strong liquors), and if also a strict law against gambling were established, as this is the prevailing passion of the more idle characters.

2. As yet the condition upon which the peasantry locate themselves upon estates as labourers thereon, are, that they are to receive wages at a certain rate per day, to be supplied by the proprietors with lodgings, and a piece of land to cultivate, for which they have to pay no rent. The number of freeholders among the peasantry is increasing fast; many are proprietors of small tracts of land, upon which are built small houses. There are no regular villages built, but there are many clusters of hamlets, rising along the public road and its vicinity, built upon these tracts of land so purchased by them. Other hamlets are built upon lots of land rented by the peasantry, in cases where they cannot get land to purchase, or their means will not allow them. The estates in the neighbourhood of these hamlets are supplied with the labour of these peasants in the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

3. In this district there are no new institutions. The same churches and schools existed before the dissolution of the apprenticeship. The benefit societies that exist now, existed since the time of slavery; these consist of a certain number of persons, who pay weekly or monthly, a certain sum for the maintenance and support of the sick, and for the burial of the dead. They appoint as their head, one of themselves, whose orders, by their regulations, they are bound to obey in matters connected with their societies.

4. The supply of labour is adequate to the present cultivation upon sugar estates. The rate of wages is from fifty to sixty cents per day upon sugar plantations; fifty cents if the peasant is located upon the estate, and sixty cents if not located thereon, with a ration of salt fish and rum to each, weekly. Upon cocoa plantations the wages are from thirty-five to fifty cents per day; it depends upon the quantity of work stipulated per task. The dry weather having lasted until the 27th of this month, the sugar-planter has had an opportunity of cutting all his canes; but the heavy rains of 1840 have occasioned a short crop in this district. The occasional showers during the last two months have been very beneficial to the sugar cultivation, and the prospects of the next crop are good.

5. Nil.

6. The internal traffic of the district is brisker since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, there being more money in circulation. Dry goods, salt provisions, malt liquors, wine, oil, &c., are more in demand.

JOSE. AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Tacarigua, Trinidad, 30th June, 1841.

1. The general character of the peasantry in this District is good, and they are improving in their condition daily; their manners and taste since the dissolution of the apprenticeship are better; their habits will no doubt improve when they have adequate instruction. Marriages are more frequent, and Sunday revels are on the decrease; the mortality is small with respect to the old people of the country; some lives are lost from casualties and the excessive use of ardent spirits. Capital crimes are not common; a few cases of petty thefts and assaults constitute the chief offences; the latter generally occasioned in drunken broils.

2. There are no cases of tenancy upon estates; the labourers are establishing themselves fast as freeholders by purchasing tracts of land upon which they build houses; many have established themselves as such along the public road, from the Turnpike-gate of Tacarigua, to the Mission of Arima, and many clusters of hamlets have arisen along that road since last year; the quantity of land so purchased by them being very limited, and the spare time during the day after they have performed their task upon the neighbouring estate, being more than adequate to cultivate the same, these neighbouring estates have not been deprived of the labour of these freeholders; but on the contrary feel the same benefit from them, as if they were located thereon. Many proprietors feeling persuaded that it would be to their great advantage to have peasants settled in their vicinity as freeholders, have offered land for sale in the most inviting part of their properties, and there are many applications as purchasers.

3. A church is about to be built in the Quarter of Tacarigua, to which the peasantry have largely subscribed, some as high as 12 and 16 dollars; there is a Friendly Society established in that quarter, under the guidance of the resident minister; there are two schools in this district, one in Tacarigua, and in the other in Arima; there are also Benefit Societies in this district, under the guidance of persons named by the peasantry themselves and of their own condition.

4. The state and prospects of cultivation are improving; upon some estates the labour is adequate to the cultivation; upon others many more labourers would be employed, if found, and therefore the cultivations upon these estates are restricted; the rate of wages upon sugar plantations are from five to six bitts per day, with rations of salt fish and rum. Strangers receive five cents more per day for six months after they have located themselves upon the estates, (the time allowed them to form their gardens). The crop of last year was very short in consequence of the great want of labour, and the very rainy season; the crop of next year cannot be more promising, as the weather has been very favorable.

5. The only new machine by which labour is saved is the magass carrier, which has been adopted upon some estates in this district, and which is adapted to the steam-engine.

6. The traffic of this district consists chiefly of spirits, malt liquors, salt provisions, crockery-ware, commestibles of all sorts, and dry goods; there are, however, no large stores in this district, but many small dealers in these articles.

Jos. AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, from 1st January to 30th June, 1841.

1. Immediately on the dissolution of the apprenticeship, and for about a year afterwards, the labourers were very unsettled in their habits, working very desultorily, passing most of their time in dancing and drinking, and going from estate to estate. A slow, but very perceptible, change for the better has since taken place in their manners, habits, and tastes, particularly since immigrants from the old islands and from the United States of America, commenced to arrive in numbers. In those quarters of this district, where there are places of religious worship, their attendance at Divine service is very regular. As far as my own personal observation goes, mortality is not remarkably great among them, not as great, on an average, as during the apprenticeship. The offences most common with them are assaults and batteries, and cases of cutting and wounding; petty thefts, and stealing in the dwelling-house occasionally occur, burglaries rarely. Two cases of arson have been brought before me, several fires have taken place, some of which were suspected to have been put maliciously, but no positive proof could be obtained. During the years 1838 and 1839, the cases of assault and battery, and of cutting and wounding were very frequent; they are less so now, but the change for the better on this point is not so great as should be expected. These assaults generally take place in drunken broils, that arise in dances and wakes, and which the evil practice of giving allowances of rum, besides high money wages, tends in a great degree to encourage.

2. The labourers in this district are mere tenants at will, paying no rent either for the houses they occupy, or for the land they are allowed to cultivate for provision grounds. The demand for labour being very great, and the supply inadequate, the labourers by this very bad system, are rendered quite independent of their employers, working when they please, and in many instances commanding the rate of wages. They do not fear being ejected, because they are sure that on leaving one estate they will immediately be received on the neighbouring estate, on the same, if not on better terms. The proprietors, on the other hand, being well aware of this, do not recur to the process of ejection. The following case will illustrate this:—The attorney of an estate being dissatisfied with two labourers, who remained in their houses and would not work for the estate, ordered them to quit, but being apprehensive that he would be resisted by force, he applied to me for a constable to prevent a breach of the peace from being committed; the constable went to the estate, the parties were peaceably ejected, but their effects had no sooner been carted to the public road, than a cart from the next estate was loaded with them, and along with the labourers they were conveyed away. Another bad effect produced by this system is, that the labourers, being sensible that they have no property in the land, and that they may be ousted from the estates on which they are employed at a very short notice, do not cultivate the provision grounds allowed them on as large a scale as formerly. Hence a general scarcity of the country provisions in the district. It is to be hoped that immigration, if it continues to flow steadily in, will in some measure remedy these evils; but a general rent system established on an equitable basis would place the relations between the peasantry and the proprietors on a sound and healthy footing. There are no new hamlets or villages in this district. Some of the more intelligent of the labourers are wishful of becoming freeholders, and one or two proprietors are disposed to sell out parcels of land, but nothing has as yet been effected in this way.

3. One Protestant church, one Protestant chapel school, one Roman Catholic church, one Wesleyan Methodist chapel, five free schools, three benefit societies for mutual aid and support, one in connexion with the Protestant church at Couva, one in connexion with the Protestant chapel school at Chaguanaa, and one in connexion with the Roman Catholic church at Couva; no savings' banks.

4. The supply of labour is not sufficient, and the general complaint is, that the labour procured is irregular; the rate of wages varies from 30, 40, 50, to 60 cents a-day; on two or three estates as much as 70 cents per day are given, and on some the labourers are paid by the task, and get from 40 to 50 cents a task, two and sometimes, but rarely, three of which are performed in one day. An American immigrant has done as many as six tasks in the day. Besides these money wages, an allowance of rum and salt fish is given, and on some estates flour and salt pork are allowed in addition. The produce of the crop from 1st January to date, is as follows:—6,885,512 lbs. of sugar; 176,132 gallons of molasses; 73,125 gallons of rum; 38,380 lbs. of cocoa; and 6,900 lbs. of coffee. The promise of next crop in general is favourable, the weather has been very good.

5. On three estates in this district the magass carrier has been introduced; on one of them four hands are saved daily, in consequence of the use of this machine.

6. Great internal traffic carried on, mostly by hucksters, many of whom were apprenticed labourers. The sort of goods most in demand are stuffs for clothing, such as calicoes, linen, platillas, harn, coloured handkerchiefs, ready-made clothes, and hats, &c.; flour, pork, mackarel, porter, wine, brandy, gin, and likewise tobacco and pipes are also in great demand.

AND. DAVID, Stipendiary Justice.

TRINIDAD.

District of North Naparima, Trinidad, 1st July, 1841.

1. Their condition generally is much improved; they now command all the necessaries, very many of the comforts, and not a few of the little luxuries of their class of life; there has been also a great improvement in their morals; marriages have greatly increased, and they evince a great desire for the education of their children. On some estates wine and malt liquor have been substituted for rum. Amusements are much more frequent, such as dancing, &c. A very great change has taken place in their choice of food—now preferring fresh to salt provisions; and there is also a great change in their dress, for the better. It is impossible to state with any degree of accuracy the rate of mortality, from the want of statistical returns, but it is evident to every observer that it has considerably decreased since the expiration of apprenticeship.

2. The peasantry, generally speaking, are granted many indulgences, and are with some exceptions, well treated by their employers, otherwise they could not be retained on the estates, as they are under no contracts and are at liberty to leave the estates whenever their interest or caprice induces them to remove; and such is the demand for labour, that they readily find employment for high wages, wherever they go. They are allowed gratuitously a cottage containing two rooms, and are generally permitted to cultivate as much land in ground provisions for their own benefit as they choose; and are expected in return for this, to work for wages, six days during crop and five out of crop. Near the town of San Fernando, the proprietors of the Vista Bella estate and others, have leased small portions of land to labourers, which are taken up very rapidly. There is also a place about one mile from the same town, termed the Coffee, which is fast rising to a village, and there is every reason to believe that these settlements must have in some measure diminished the supply of labour for the production of the staple produce of those parts of the district, as the general occupation of these settlers is the cultivation of guinea-grass and vegetables, which are sold at very high prices. Many also have established small retail shops.

3. Several churches, chapels, and schools, have been established in the district. In the town of San Fernando there are three places of public worship—a church of the established religion, a Roman Catholic church, and a Wesleyan chapel. There are in the district eight schools, six of which are in connexion with the Established Church, *viz.*, one in San Fernando, two in North Naparima, and three in Savana Grande; there are also two under the direction of the ministers of the Roman Catholic church—one in San Fernando, and the other at the Mission of Savana Grande. In all these schools instruction is gratuitous, and the expense is defrayed partly by the colonial government, partly by private contributions. There are no saving's banks. A benefit society has been established in San Fernando for the relief of indigent sick.

4. The cultivation is in a good state, but the prospects of improving or increasing it are very limited, as there is a general want of labour notwithstanding the wages given to every labourer, being for each task (generally performed in five hours) 50 cents (2s. 1d. sterling), half-a-pound of cod-fish, and sometimes a gill of rum; and to carters, boilermen, and firemen, sixty cents (2s. 6d. sterling) and the same allowances. The last crop produced was from 3700 to 4000 hogsheads of sugar, and about one puncheon of molasses to every two hogsheads of sugar. Rum (including that produced by distilleries not on estates) about 500 puncheons were made last crop. There is every reason to expect that the next crop will exceed that of this year—the increase will probably be about 400 hogsheads of sugar, and molasses in proportion. The weather has been exceedingly favourable.

5. There have been no improvements or discoveries by which labour can be saved, nor have any new methods of cultivation or new manufactures been introduced.

6. Traffic in dry goods lately has risen to an extraordinary height, particularly in the town of San Fernando. The goods most in demand are cotton and linen goods, and wearing apparel of the best quality. A great trade is also carried on in fowling-pieces, gunpowder, &c., which are in very general use among the labourers.

1st July, 1841.

CHARLES FRED. KNOX, Stipendiary J. P., N. N. D.

Eastern District, Trinidad, 30th June, 1841.

1. During the short period that I have held this office, I have noticed the character of the peasantry in general to be peaceable and religiously inclined, but more particularly the *Tinidadians*, that is, the old inhabitants; they are of good manners, regular habits, and evince much taste as regards their dress on holidays. The daily increase of immigrants in this district has naturally rendered ground provisions scarce and dear; the old inhabitants possessing already provisions ground have been induced, from this circumstance, to cultivate this year more of that commodity than usual to supply the increased demand; and while thus occupied they have, it is evident, relaxed, in some degree, their labour on the sugar estates. This district is considered healthy for the peasantry; deaths scarcely occur but from accident or old age; petty civil actions, and trivial cases of assault and battery, I may say, form all the complaints I have heard here; of the latter only in one case the fine imposed amounted to 10 dollars, the others did not exceed 4.

2. Confidence appears to be increasing between the peasantry and the proprietors; however, the former are still tenants on the estates at pleasure, paying no rent, and liable to be ejected without sufficient notice. Were the proprietors to put houses on the very spots allotted for their tenants' provision-ground, and a rent fixed for both, to be paid by the occupier in cash, I am of opinion that such a system would have a good effect. Several large tracts of land being private property, and in the vicinity of the sugar estates, have been bought up in lots by this class of men, and immediately the land put into cultivation, and cottages built thereon without delay. These changes consequently cause a scarcity of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

3. One Roman Catholic church is now being erected at Mayaro, and a school in progress by the Rev. Mr. Duffy.

4. The state of the cultivation here cannot be called prosperous for want of labour. Wages are paid by the task of 4000 square feet, at 40 to 50 cents, with fish and rum; this price I consider equivalent to 60 or 70 cents in other quarters, owing to the facility with which this light soil is worked. Crop not yet over, the season permitting to make sugar here in the fall of the year. It is, however,

expected, that the next crop will not be less than the present, although the weather has been excessively dry this year.

5. Nil.

6. Shops are being opened in different parts, apparently with success. Dry goods of all descriptions, principally cottons.

30th June, 1841.

J. R. ROUSSEAU, Stipendiary Justice.

District of South Naparima, Trinidad, 26th June, 1841.

1. The general character and condition of the peasantry is promising; they are improving in their tastes, and become exceedingly fond of dress.

The mortality is not more than one per cent. Crime has decreased: the general offences committed are common assaults; and that not to a great extent, considering the large population of this district.

Theft is very seldom committed.

2. The relation between the peasantry and the proprietors is not what it ought to be. Great difference of opinion prevails. The former are so impressed with the idea that they are entitled to the houses gratuitous, notwithstanding they may not work all the week; which, in some cases, the latter is not disposed to admit; and it frequently happens that house-rent is sued for. There are no freeholders' villages or hamlets in the district; therefore no drawback upon labour for the staple produce.

3. There is one church, one chapel-school, and three schools, in the district; but no banks or benefit societies.

4. The state and prospects of cultivation are very promising. No want of labour for the present cultivation. Wages are five shillings currency per task, with some allowances. The produce of last crop, on an average, is between seven and eight thousand hogsheads. The weather has been particularly favourable, both for the last and following crop.

5. No new machinery by which labour is saved; also no improved method of cultivation, or new manufacture.

6. The internal traffic is very considerable; chiefly in dry goods.

26th June, 1841.

BENITO GONZALEZ FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

(No. 77.)

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD, to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 3rd August, 1841.

I PERCEIVE in your Lordship's despatch to Sir John Jeremie, No. 24, dated the 20th March last, on the subject of Emigration, that although your Lordship considers it advisable that he should chiefly regulate himself by the laws of those colonies to which the emigrants are to proceed, yet that you do not prescribe this as an inflexible rule. I should trust, therefore, that your Lordship would be pleased to extend to this colony the indulgence granted to the Legislature of Jamaica, that the number of female emigrants, as regards the males, should be in the proportion of one-third.

I do not recommend that this ratio should be observed with respect to the emigrants from the West India Colonies, but would confine it principally to the coast of Africa and America.

A strong reason for advising it in the former case, is that on the late arrival of immigrants from Sierra Leone, the Kroomen on being told previous to their embarkation, that their passages would not be paid for by the Government, unless an equal number of females accompanied them, actually persuaded women of the very lowest character and not of their own tribe, to embark with them.

As regards the labourers from America, who generally wish to emigrate in families, very great difficulties present themselves on account of the proportion of males exceeding the number allowed by our ordinance.

If your Lordship should be pleased to give to this island the same advantages that Jamaica enjoys by the regulation as to the proportion of the sexes, I should solicit that the Order in Council relative to Immigration into Trinidad, may be so far altered as to meet the request I have made.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

H. MACLEOD, Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 10.

TRINIDAD.

(No. 10.)

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD.

Sir,

Downing-street, 9th October, 1841.

No. 11.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 77, of the 3rd August, recommending that the Island of Trinidad should be placed on the same footing as Jamaica, in regard to the proportion of sexes to be maintained in the introduction of emigrants into the colony, viz., that the number of female emigrants as regards the males should be in the proportion of one-third.

Order in Council.
6th Oct.

I have the honour to transmit to you an Order of Her Majesty in Council, modifying to this extent the previous Order of the 30th September, 1839.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STANLEY.

Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry MacLeod,

&c.

&c.

&c.

Enclosure in No. 11.

Order in Council for the Protection of Persons Immigrating to the Island of Trinidad.

At the Court at Windsor, the 6th day of October, 1841,

Present,—The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Encl. in No. 11.

WHEREAS, on the thirtieth day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, an Order was made by Her Majesty in Council, confirming and allowing, with certain exceptions, and subject to certain rules and qualifications, an Ordinance enacted, on the nineteenth day of April one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, by the acting Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad, by and with the advice and consent of the Council and Government thereof, for the encouragement of immigration, and for the protection of persons immigrating into that colony:

And whereas it is thereby, amongst other things, ordered, that the Governor or Lieutenant Governor of the colony aforesaid shall not give effect to the above recited Ordinance, in so far as it encourages immigration, unless it be under such circumstances and with such precautions as shall ensure an equality in numbers between the male and female immigrants annually introduced under its provisions:

And whereas it hath appeared to Her Majesty, with the advice of Her Privy Council, expedient to revoke the provision last aforesaid of the said recited Order:

It is, therefore, hereby ordered by Her Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, that the provisions last aforesaid of the said recited Order in Council, of the thirtieth day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, shall be, and the same are hereby, revoked:

And it is hereby ordered, that it shall and may be lawful for the Governor or Lieutenant Governor of Trinidad, after the passing of this present Order, to give effect to the above recited Ordinance, in so far as it encourages immigration, provided that in every case where immigrants are imported, under the provisions of the above recited Ordinance, one-third, at least, of such immigrants shall consist of females:

And the Right Honourable Lord Stanley, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

WM. L. BATHURST.

(No. 82.)

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 17th August, 1841.

No. 12.

I HAD the honour, on the 28th May last, to inform your Lordship that I had appointed Mr. Hamilton, Emigration Agent for this island at Sierra Leone; and I at the same time stated that I adopted the terms offered by that gentleman in his notice to persons desirous of emigrating to Trinidad.

Circumstances have since arisen that have caused a considerable alteration in the terms above-mentioned, and those now offered are, house and provision grounds, with from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 1d. sterling for each task; the allowances of salt fish, flour, spirits, &c., having been discontinued.

As the communication with the agent may not be so certain, I should wish the earliest intimation of these alterations to be given to the authorities at Sierra Leone, in order that persons may not emigrate to Trinidad under false expectations.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

H. MACLEOD, Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(No. 86.)

No. 13.

TRINIDAD.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 28th August, 1841.

I RECEIVED from your Lordship a despatch No. 27, of the 9th June, 1840, directing me to forward any information relative to the advantages held out by the Island of Trinidad to emigrants from Sierra Leone, to which your Lordship will have received my answer under date the 21st July last year.

By the last packet I informed your Lordship that certain alterations had taken place in the terms offered to labourers, and at the same time I requested that the proper authorities of Sierra Leone should be made acquainted with these changes.

Upon further consideration, and however much the welfare of this colony must depend on obtaining a large body of immigrants, I cannot consent to be thought for one moment to hold out advantages that may not be realized.

Your Lordship is aware that a certain number of labourers arrived here from Sierra Leone. They brought with them a printed paper signed by Mr. Hamilton, the Emigration Agent, setting forth the advantages to be derived by emigrating to Trinidad. These terms, as I have acquainted your Lordship, have been altered by the curtailment of all allowances, of which these people naturally complain.

It will be evident that the rate of wages must vary according to the market for produce, and although this island will always be capable of giving at the highest rate, yet, in the unsettled state of the sugar duties, it is impossible to foresee to what further extent reductions may take place.

I would therefore request permission to revise that part of my letter to your Lordship, wherein I name a particular sum as wages, and to amend it by stating that to be the amount at present given, but, as I have already observed, although this island will always give the highest rate of wages, yet persons coming here must be subject to the vicissitudes in the market prices of Colonial produce.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. MACLEOD, Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 13.

For Lord J. Russell's Despatch, 9th June, 1840, *vide* Despatch to Governor Light, "Papers relative to the West Indies, 1841," British Guiana, page 132.

For Sir H. MacLeod's Despatch, 21st July, 1840, *vide* "Papers relative to the West Indies, 1841, British Guiana," p. 272.

(No. 17.)

No. 14.

COPY of DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD.

Sir,

Downing-street, 18th November, 1841.

I HAVE received your despatches, Nos. 82 and 86, of the 17th and 28th August, the former reporting that circumstances had rendered it necessary to deviate considerably from the terms originally held out to immigrants proceeding from Sierra Leone to Trinidad; the latter, that owing to the fluctuations in the value of labour in that island, it will be impracticable to give any guarantee as to the rate of wages to be received by immigrants on their arrival in the colony.

I regret, that so soon after the establishment of emigration to the West Indies from Sierra Leone, it should have been found necessary, in the case of Trinidad, to depart from the original terms held out to the immigrants, and that the impossibility of defining the rate of wages to be received by them had not been foreseen from the beginning. This want of greater precaution is unfortunate, and may throw great discredit on the emigration.

You have not stated what will be the condition of those labourers who may have gone from Sierra Leone on the faith of the original terms—that is, all who shall have embarked previous to the notice respecting the alteration of the terms reaching Sierra Leone.

With respect to those labourers, any such reductions must be regarded as a breach of faith, and I must look to you to enforce the fulfilment in their case, of the original terms; or to ensure to them advantages equivalent to those, on the faith of which, they left Sierra Leone.

No. 14.

15th Nov.

TRINIDAD.

No. 14. 11th Nov.

I transmit to you the copy of a despatch which I have addressed to the officer administering the government of Sierra Leone, stating the course to be taken in future in issuing notices for the information of those who may be desirous of emigrating.

It will be desirable that you should cause periodical returns of the rate of wages in Trinidad, to be transmitted to the agent in Sierra Leone, acting on behalf of the island, which he may promulgate as received from time to time.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry MacLeod.
&c. &c. &c.

STANLEY.

Enclosure in No. 14.

SIR,

Downing-street, 11th November, 1841.

Encl. in No. 14.
Sir H. MacLeod,
No. 86—28th Aug.
1841.

REFERRING to my despatch, No. 13, of the 10th ultimo, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a further communication, which has been received from the Governor of Trinidad, stating the reasons which will render it impossible to fulfil the expectations held out by Mr. Hamilton to those labourers whom he has assisted in emigrating to Trinidad.

You will instruct Mr. Hamilton and the agents of other West Indian colonies which import emigrants from Sierra Leone, that they must hold themselves forbidden from entering into any specific engagement or promise as to the future rate of wages to be assigned to those persons, and that they are required to confine themselves to an exact and unexaggerated statement of the rate of wages which may have prevailed at the latest period for which they may be in possession of authentic accounts.

You will further take measures on your part for causing every emigrant from the colony to be informed that the rate of wages in the West Indies is liable to fluctuations which it is impossible to calculate beforehand, and that he must take his chance of such fluctuations without any guarantee against the depreciation of the value of his labour.

I am, &c.

Officer administering Government of Sierra Leone.

(Signed) STANLEY.

(No. 85.)

No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD, to
Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Trinidad, August 20th, 1841.

No. 15.

A DEPUTATION from the Agricultural and Immigration Society, has waited on me with a Copy of the evidence taken before a sub-committee of that Society, with a request that I should transmit it to your Lordship, which I now have the honour to do.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

H. MACLEOD, Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 15.

TRINIDAD.

Encl. in No. 15.

Present Condition of Trinidad, as exhibited by the Evidence taken by the Agricultural and Immigration Society of the Colony, pursuant to a Resolution of that Society, passed at a Special General Meeting of the Members held on the 11th day of February, 1841.—Revised by the Chairman, The Honourable W. H. Burnley.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

SIR,

Richmond Street, 8th March, 1841.

At a numerous Meeting of the “ Agricultural and Immigration ” Society of Trinidad, held on the 11th of February last, after some preliminary discussion as to the necessity and advantage of furnishing information to the public in Great Britain with respect to the actual state of agricultural affairs in this Colony, and more particularly as to the real amount of wages paid to labourers, the Meeting came to the following resolution :—

“ That a Sub-Committee be appointed to inquire and report respecting the state of the agricultural interests of the Colony since the abolition of apprenticeship in August, 1838, their present condition and future prospects, and to recommend such measures as they may think conducive to the general prosperity.”

As no representation relative to these subjects can be expected to carry with it the weight and authority desired, unless supported by the best testimony which can be procured in the Colony, I beg respectfully to request your Excellency’s assistance in inducing the Clergy, Magistracy, and Public Officers in general, to afford the Sub-Committee the information they may require, whether in the shape of written or verbal evidence.

I beg the liberty of further stating to your Excellency, that I have now passed above one month in the Colony, since my return from Europe and the United States, and clearly perceive from the best observations and inquiries I have been enabled to make, that the most injurious consequences will ensue to the labouring classes, unless the present system of gratuitous allowances, in the shape of houses, provisions, and spirits, is put an end to. In consequence of paying no rent for his house, the labourer feels that he has no right of permanent residence in it; he views it only as a temporary shelter, not as a fixed home; and as he finds that he can change it whenever he pleases, and obtain another elsewhere on the same easy terms, he acquires restless habits, feels independent of the good-will of his employer, and entirely neglects the cultivation of vegetables, or the raising of small stock, notwithstanding their present exorbitant price, and the abundance of spare time at his disposal. By the adoption of a moderate charge for rent, adequate only to the cost of the house and land provided for him, he will probably begin to attach some value to a residence for which he pays a consideration, and will gradually see the advantage of making himself permanently settled and comfortable.

The distribution also of salt provisions, flour, rice, &c., tends to create unthrifty habits. The labourer receives them, not in proportion to his wants, or the extent of his family, but in proportion to the labour he may perform. He frequently may receive more than he actually requires; but if the surplus does not constitute an object of easy and ready sale, it will, of course, be wastefully disposed of. By suppressing all allowances, and charging a moderate rent for his house, a higher rate of money wages could and would be cheerfully paid by the proprietor. The labourer then would be rewarded exactly in proportion to his industry, and would purchase only the quantity and quality of every article he might desire.

But of all the allowances granted, that of rum is the most intolerable in its accompanying circumstances, and the most alarming in its future consequences, and, unless immediately checked, will be productive of the most serious evils to the whole community.

As the commutation which I have suggested requires the substitution of an increased money rate of wages in lieu of the allowances specified, your Excellency will readily perceive

K

TRINIDAD.

the difficulties which oppose themselves to its being effected by any effort of the proprietors alone. Independently of the distrust, which for a series of years past has been systematically infused into the minds of the labourers of these Colonies (by those who have assumed to themselves exclusively the title of the friends of the negro) as to the motives and objects of every effort of the planters, which constitutes at the present moment a great and unfortunate barrier to the improvement of our free-labour system, by any exertions of the latter, it is clearly advantageous, that a third and disinterested party should intervene between them and the labouring class, for the satisfactory adjustment of this question. And when it is further considered, that the change proposed will appear to many to involve in some degree the abandonment of old habits of vicious indulgence, it will require, I fear, the united influence of the Executive, the Clergy, and the Magistracy, ultimately to effect it; at the same time, it is equally evident, that the longer the attempt is deferred, the greater will be the difficulty in accomplishing it.

Having felt it to be my duty thus to point out to your Excellency the evils which appear to me to exist, I have now only to assure you, that the members of the Society are prepared, cordially and vigorously, to assist, by every means in their power, in the promotion of any measures which the Colonial Government may think best adapted for their suppression.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM H. BURNLEY,

Chairman of the Agricultural and Immigration Society.

His Excellency Sir Henry Macleod,
&c. &c. &c.

SIR,

Government House, 18th March, 1841.

I AM directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, containing a resolution of the Agricultural and Immigration Society of Trinidad, and requesting His Excellency's assistance in desiring the different Public Officers to afford the information the Sub-Committee may require, in order that the actual state of agricultural affairs in this Colony, and more particularly as to the real amount of wages paid to the labourers, should be furnished to the British public.

His Excellency is most happy to comply with this request, and has directed the Public Officers to give the fullest information in their power, but recommends, in order to insure the most impartial reply, that the questions intended to be put should be sent through this office.

You proceed to remark on the injurious consequences likely to ensue from the present mode of paying part of the wages of labour in kind—that is, the allowance of houses, grounds, provisions, and spirits.

From the moment of the abolition of slavery, His Excellency always viewed this as an unsound practice; but in his endeavours to obtain an alteration of the system, he was told that the people had been so long in the habit of living in the houses, as their own property, that any thing in the shape of rent would produce discontent.

With regard to the allowance of provisions and rum, His Excellency apprehends they are given only in this Colony and British Guiana, at least, to any amount, but coincides most perfectly with you in the view taken of this subject, which His Excellency is glad to find you state to be the opinion of the Society.

The allowance of rum, particularly, has been universally represented to the Governor as demoralizing in the extreme; and in a conversation which His Excellency lately had with three gentlemen of the Society of Friends, who came here from Baltimore, the necessity of doing away with it was strongly urged by them.

These gentlemen came here in consequence of the discrepancy of the accounts published in the United States, and for the purpose of judging for themselves of the state of this Colony and of the American Immigrants, and distinctly stated *that this was the only thing they had to find fault with*, for in every other particular they were bound to give their unqualified approbation.

Strongly impressed, however, as the Governor is with the necessity of a change in this part of the system, there are very great difficulties attending it, which will be unnecessary to state here, but for which the employer alone can find a remedy; for His Excellency would deprecate any attempt at legislative enactment as regards rates or modes of labour—this must be left to find its own level.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ARTHUR WHITE, Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. W. H. Burnley.

Sir,

Port of Spain, 23rd March, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 18th instant, and beg you to present to His Excellency the Governor the thanks of the Committee of the Agricultural and Immigration Society, for his ready attention to their wishes, in directing the Public Officers to furnish the fullest information in their power on all subjects relating to the inquiry they are about to institute.

His Excellency's recommendations the Committee will always be disposed to follow; but in the present instance they beg respectfully to observe, that to frame beforehand written ques-

tions to be sent through your office, would require on their part a previous knowledge of the subject to be investigated, far more perfect than they can as yet pretend to possess. It was in fact a sense of their ignorance on various points intimately connected with the future improvement and welfare of the Colony, which partly dictated the necessity of commencing an inquiry for the purpose of enlightening themselves and the public upon the subject; and under all circumstances a large proportion, possibly a majority of the questions which may be put to a witness will naturally be suggested by the tenor of his replies. I beg to remark, that the request contained in my letter of the 8th instant, to His Excellency the Governor, was limited to his inducing the Public Officers to afford the requisite information, and the Committee look for nothing more than such an expression of his opinion in favour of the inquiry instituted, as may induce those gentlemen readily to furnish all the documentary and personal evidence in their power. Their attendance before the Committee will, of course, be voluntary; they will be free to decline answering any questions they please, and during any stage of the inquiry will be admitted to explain or qualify any previous portions of their evidence, should they deem it necessary. If His Excellency desire it, the Committee will furnish you, besides, with copies of the whole, as fast as the same is proceeded in; enabling, by these means, any Officer of the Government to tender such further information as a correct and impartial judgment of the whole subject may appear to require. Under this arrangement the Committee respectfully hope that His Excellency will have no objection to the attendance of any of the Public Officers invited, and to their giving their evidence in the usual mode which prevails in all inquiries conducted by Committees in Great Britain.

The Committee never entertained the slightest doubt of His Excellency's entire concurrence in their view of the injurious consequences to all parties, and more particularly to the labouring class, arising out of the present practice of paying part of the wages of labour in house-rent, grounds, provisions, and spirits; but they observe with regret that he thinks the employer alone can provide a remedy for the evil complained of. Allow me to assure you that this subject was previously considered by the Committee with much attention, and it was only the conviction of our inability to apply a remedy without the assistance of the Government, which prescribed the necessity of laying the whole matter before His Excellency for consideration.

In my last communication I pointed out the difficulty of such an undertaking, in consequence of the distrust unhappily infused into the minds of the labourers throughout the West India Colonies, with respect to the motives of their employers; and I now beg the liberty of adding, that a serious impediment to any combined effort on the part of the proprietors in this Island has been created by the peculiar form of our Government, which, thoroughly and completely centralized as it is, has long deprived the inhabitants of the habit of co-operation, and at the same time has naturally generated an opinion, that whatever the Executive will not take the lead in promoting, it is not disposed to encourage. And when in addition to this difficulty it is further considered that some few individuals are to be found in every community actuated by the views of personal interest alone, without regard to moral considerations, who would immediately reap great pecuniary advantage at the expense of the more conscientious portion of the community, by privately evading all the necessary measures proposed, the Committee cannot flatter themselves with the expectation that any remedy can be successfully applied to the evils complained of, without the direct aid and intervention of the Government.

The Committee equally deprecate with His Excellency any attempt to regulate rates or modes of labour by legislative enactments,—an idea which they have never entertained, and which they would be the last to advocate; but at the same time they believe that the delivery of goods and spirits, in lieu of money, for payment of wages, usually denominated the truck system, may be put down here as it was in Great Britain by legislative enactments,—although this marked difference exists in the two cases, that in the latter country the measure was effected in opposition to the wishes of the employers, the great majority of whom in this Colony would, on the contrary, heartily concur in its adoption; whilst the principal obstacle to be met with here would arise from the discontent and hostility of the labourers, which the employers alone, and unassisted by the Government, would never dare to encounter.

The Committee entirely agree with His Excellency in opinion, that the injurious system complained of prevails only in Trinidad and Guiana, and not in the other British Colonies—a distinction which clearly proves that it arises from no fault of the proprietors, whose interests in this respect are the same throughout the West Indies, but from other causes over which they have no control. In Barbados, Antigua, and elsewhere, a dense population creates a competition (amongst the labourers for employment), which renders them in some degree dependent upon the good-will and influence of the proprietors; whilst in this Colony a totally opposite state of society prevails. This difference, from whence all our present evils flow, is mainly to be attributed to the legislation of the Mother-Country, which, for a series of years, opposed the transfer of labour from one Colony to another, and prevented its seeking its natural level. In some places, therefore, it is abundant; whilst in Trinidad and Guiana it is so scarce as to enable the labourer to dictate his own terms, which, instead of ultimately proving beneficial, is now exhibiting such demoralizing results as to fill the reflecting portion of the community with alarm.

The Committee respectfully observe, that this evil might have been obviated, if at the abolition of apprenticeship Government had abandoned the restrictions which prevented labour from seeking its natural level, and had permitted immigration into this Colony from all parts of the world. It would have created a wholesome competition for employment among the labourers, and have given to proprietors the power of adopting measures calculated to check the idleness, extravagance, and immorality which at present so fearfully prevail. But as this

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course was, unhappily, resisted, the only palliative remaining (for it can never effect a cure whilst wages continue so high) is to endeavour, by the united efforts of the Colonial Government and the proprietors, to substitute a money rate of wages in lieu of payments in kind—a measure notoriously so unpalatable to the labourers, that the Committee are satisfied it will never be accepted, or even patiently listened to if proposed by the proprietors alone, who, in many respects, are now divested of all power and influence.

The Committee are indeed gratified to hear that intelligent and pious foreigners, who have recently visited us for the purpose of ascertaining the state and condition of our immigrants, have expressed to His Excellency the Governor their unqualified approbation of all they have seen, excepting only the distribution of rum, which constitutes the most aggravated feature of the evil of which the Committee now complain. This testimony it is hoped will destroy the misrepresentations so scandalously invented and industriously circulated elsewhere, respecting the treatment and condition of our immigrants, and cannot fail, the Committee feel assured, of giving an additional stimulus to our exertions to put down a practice, which they admit to be the only fault to be found in the free labour system established in this Colony.

I have respectfully to request, on the part of the Committee, that you will lay this communication before His Excellency the Governor.

I have, &c.

The Hon. Arthur White.

WILLIAM H. BURNLEY.

(Copy.)

MY DEAR SIR,

13th April, 1841.

PERMIT me to bring to your recollection a document which I lately transmitted through you for His Excellency from the Chairman of the Agricultural Society.

As His Excellency has been for some time absent from town, it may have escaped his observation. I am going down to Naparima for a week or more.

Yours, &c.

The Hon. Arthur White.

(Signed) JOHN LOSH,
Secretary to the Agricultural Society.

MY DEAR SIR,

Government House, April 13, 1841.

I PUT the letter before the Governor, and he has now before him your note to me, but he is much engaged preparing for the packet.

His Excellency, however, says that the case does not appear in any new light before him; and although he does not object to any public officer being examined, he cannot permit the stipendiary magistrates to be brought out of their districts to attend a committee of the Agricultural Society.

There are one or two close to Port of Spain, who he imagines could always be found without interfering in their duties.

I am, &c.

The Hon. John Losh, &c. &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR WHITE.

SIR,

24th April, 1841.

YOUR note of the 13th instant was laid before the committee of the Agricultural Society, and I have been directed to inquire whether the same is to be considered as a definitive reply to the Chairman's communication to you of the 23rd March last.

I have, &c.

The Hon. Arthur White.

(Signed) JOHN LOSH.

SIR,

Government House, 26th April, 1841.

MR. LOSH having addressed a note to me on the 24th instant, I referred it to the Governor, and I am directed to say that His Excellency having received your letter as explanatory of a former one, had not intended to reply to it. It would be needless for His Excellency to enter into the contents of the letter now before him, as the case does not appear to him to be placed in any new point of view; but I am desired to assure the gentlemen of the Agricultural Society that the allowance of rum, which by all is confessed to produce such lamentable consequences, has much fixed the Governor's attention, and continues to be matter of consideration how this evil may be abated, without such interference as might cause, as you observe, the discontent and hostility of the labouring population.

I am, &c.

The Hon. Wm. H. Burnley, (Signed) ARTHUR WHITE, Colonial Secretary.
Chairman of the Agricultural Society, &c. &c. &c.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE TAKEN BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE
AGRICULTURAL AND IMMIGRATION SOCIETY.

Monday, 22nd March, 1841.

Union Hall Estate, South Naparima.

The Honourable W. H. BURNLEY in the Chair.

St. Luce Philip, Esquire, called in and examined.

1. Have you been long resident in Trinidad?—I was born in the colony, but educated in Europe, where I have passed at two different periods, 14 years.

2. What is your profession, and how do you employ yourself in the colony?—I am a doctor of medicine, but practise only among my friends, and chiefly employ myself as a sugar planter, being part proprietor, with my family, of three sugar estates.

3. You are then well acquainted with the state of affairs in this colony, social and agricultural?—Yes, generally; but in all matters of agricultural detail, my manager, Frederick Maxwell, who was originally a slave, but liberated by our family for his good conduct, and subsequently promoted to his present situation, can give the committee better information than myself.

4. Are the expenses attending the cultivation of a sugar estate greater now than previous to emancipation?—Much greater, and have been continually and regularly increasing to the present period.

5. Has not your revenue increased in proportion in consequence of the great rise in sugar—in 1840, for instance, as compared to 1838 and 1839?—By no means: it was decidedly less in 1840, from the greater increase of expenses and rise in wages.

6. Do you consider, then, that a further rise in the sugar market, would only raise the price of wages, and be of little benefit to the planter?—Decidedly so, unless a larger population of labourers were introduced.

7. Has there not been a considerable immigration of labourers since emancipation?—Yes, and to an extent which I believe many are not aware of; for a number of labourers arrive from other colonies direct to San Fernando,* whose passages are not paid by the colonial government, but by the planters receiving them; and I have myself expended in this way 300 to 400 dollars.

8. What proportion of immigrants have you working upon your estates?—Above one-half.

9. Are the number of labourers upon your estate doubled then since the abolition of apprenticeship?—Not quite, as some of my apprentices have settled in town, or on lands of their own, and some have gone to other estates.

10. As you state the number of labourers upon your estate to be nearly doubled, the committee wish to know whether your crops have increased in the same proportion?—Certainly not upon my estates, and generally, I believe, there has been a great decrease throughout the district. Many cane pieces are now over-grown with brushwood, which were previously in cultivation.

11. To what do you ascribe this circumstance?—To the irregular work of the labourers, who, upon an average, work only three or four days in the week, in consequence of the high wages they receive.

12. Possibly they find it more advantageous to employ their time in raising poultry, pigs, and vegetables?—Some few may, but in general it is not the case, for all those articles are now scarcer and dearer than I ever recollect at any former period.

13. Do you charge any rent to the labourers on your estate for their houses and grounds?—None at all.

14. Do those, then, who work only occasionally, enjoy in this respect the same advantages as those whose labour is regular and continuous?—Exactly the same.

15. What is your motive for continuing a practice apparently so unjust?—It is the universal practice, and I cannot attempt a change, until my neighbours are determined to do the same.

16. Are you not one of the road commissioners in this quarter?—Not in this, but in the quarter of North Naparima.

17. Has there been greater difficulty in repairing the public roads since emancipation?—Infinitely greater. Until the arrival of the Americans, we could find no parties willing to contract for the repairs, and they charge a most extravagant rate for all they do.

18. What prevented other parties then from entering into these profitable contracts?—I cannot exactly say, but it is the fact. Probably it was considered too dangerous, as no man can depend always upon getting labourers, or retaining them, at a reasonable price, whilst the Americans depend upon each other, and do the work in partnership.

19. Have you had any opportunities of judging of the health of the immigrants since their arrival in the colony?—Yes, generally.

20. Have any of them suffered materially from sickness or mortality?—None; even among the Americans, who I consider more liable, as coming from a northern climate, there have been very few deaths, only occasional sickness, and they will soon be accustomed to the climate.

21. Do you know anything of the health of the liberated Africans who arrived in the island five years ago?—I received 18 of them upon my estate, who were landed in a very emaciated condition; but all, with the exception of one woman who died of consumption, soon recovered, and are now in the most perfect health.

22. Have you never heard then of cases among them of *mal d'estomac* and dirt-eating, which occurred so frequently and fatally among Africans, previous to the abolition of the slave-trade?—Never. I believe those diseases to have been intimately connected with mental despondency, to which freemen will rarely if ever be liable.

23. Are the labourers generally quiet and orderly throughout the district?—Generally so; I mean

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25. In the event of a fall in the rate of wages, is it not to be apprehended that there will be some risk of robbery to a greater extent; in which case, how far do you consider the existing police of the quarter adequate to repress offenders and keep the peace?—There would be certainly much greater risk, as, in fact, there is no resident magistrate or police in the quarter, and I should be under great alarm as to the consequences, if the labouring classes were not as well off as they are at present.

Mr. Frederick Maxwell called in and examined.

26. What is your occupation and employment?—I am manager of the Philippine Estate, in South Naparima, which I have conducted for seven years. At five years of age I was brought by Mr. Philip from the Island of Grenada, and worked upon the Concord Estate, belonging to the family, until I was liberated.

27. Do you consider the condition of the labouring class to be much improved since emancipation?—They are, certainly, much better pleased with their present condition than they were formerly.

28. What wages do you pay at present?—Sixty cents per day, generally, (2s. 6d. stg.) to the people working about the mill and boiling-house; the same to the cart-men, with one cooked meal, two or three glasses of rum, and half a pound of dried cod-fish.

29. At what hours do you commence and end work?—The engine mill is put about at 5 in the morning, at 11 or 12 we stop for one hour, and generally finish at half-past 5.

30. How many days do you work in the week?—In general, six days.

31. Do the labourers, then, work steadily six days in the week?—Oh, no! not more than three or four generally; some work on one day, some on another.

32. How much do you pay for weeding canes?—Fifty cents (2s. 2d. stg.) for a square of 60 feet when the canes are foul, but 70 or 80 feet when in better order, with half a pound of fish and one glass of rum.

33. From your own practical experience, can you say whether two of these tasks can be done in a day by an ordinary well-disposed labourer, without fatiguing himself?—Two can easily be done, from 6 in the morning by 11 o'clock. I have two women on the estate who do three tasks per day with ease.

34. Do many of them perform two tasks per day?—Very few; many do only three or four in the week, and some not more than one.

35. What is the cause of their doing so little work, as it appears to be so easily performed?—They are idle and lazy—prefer living upon their more industrious friends, and the canes of the estate.

36. Do you lose much from the plunder of canes?—A great deal, without our being able to prevent it; when we detect them we sometimes stop their wages, but this frequently occasions them to leave the estate and work elsewhere; but we cannot afford to lose the time necessary for carrying them before the magistrate.

37. How much can a labourer save per week, who works industriously?—He can easily save six or even dollars per week, if he will work steadily. The two women of whom I spoke save as much.

38. Can this be done at all seasons of the year?—By field work, at any time—probably easier out of crop than in.

39. What do the women of whom you spoke intend to do with their money?—I believe they intend to buy a small piece of land; but the greater number squander what they make in drinking, gambling, and dissipation.

40. Do you consider them to be improving, or getting worse, in these respects?—Decidedly getting worse, as wages increase. The other day, in consequence of the drunkenness of one of my firemen, I was obliged to make fire for two hours myself.

41. Would it be possible to persuade any of the labourers to sign an agreement to work six days in succession, steadily, upon an estate?—I should not dare to attempt it. My only security now for working throughout the week is, that if one man will not work another will; and we have double the number upon the estate necessary to do the work performed.

42. Comparing the work of the natives and the different classes of immigrants together, which do you prefer?—That of the natives decidedly, they understand it better.

42*. Have you tried the liberated Africans?—We have three on the estate, they work extremely well. One of the women I mentioned is an African; she is my god-daughter, and I have now 100 dollars belonging to her in my hands.

43. Would you be pleased to see a greater number of these Africans arrive?—I should prefer them much to the labourers from the old islands, as I think they are disposed to settle down more steadily.

44. Would you not apprehend that from want of education they might be turbulent, commit breaches of the peace and acts of violence?—Not if distributed generally amongst the natives, and not allowed to settle too much by themselves, particularly if they brought their wives with them.

45. Do you think that if any great number of immigrants were to arrive, we could find employment for them all?—If they were to arrive in thousands we could employ them. At Philippine, where we have 80 or 90 labourers resident now, we could employ 300 more to-morrow.

46. In what way would you employ them?—I cannot at this moment weed any plant canes, or haul the trash from the ratoons, for want of hands, and they are suffering much in consequence. My present stock of canes would yield one-third more sugar if properly cultivated. I would then put in more cane-pieces, as our engine is quite powerful enough for a much larger crop.

47. What is the size of the estate?—140 quarrees, of which only 100 are in cultivation. (*Three acres and one-fifth to a quarree.*)

48. Do you find that the raising of provisions and small stock has increased since emancipation?—It has fallen off much; they are so scarce now as hardly to be procured.

49. By whom were they raised before, and why do they not continue the practice?—They were raised by the slaves and apprentices; but they get now such high wages that they are careless, and many who might be disposed to do so find that they lose by plunder and depredation.

50. Cannot you protect provision grounds from plunder?—You cannot find watchmen to protect them at any price. They do not like to remain apart from the others, and very probably would steal themselves.

51. What do you consider to be the cause of labourers removing so frequently from one estate to

another?—They do not like their work to be closely looked after, and remove to another estate, where they think they will be allowed to do it more quickly and superficially.

52. Have you much trouble, then, in looking after the work of the labourers?—A great deal. The work is infinitely worse than it was in time of slavery.

53. If wages were to fall one-half, do you think that the labourer would suffer materially in consequence?—No, it would only oblige them to work better; and they would be much happier and better off than they are now, wasting their time in idleness and dissipation.

Wednesday, 24th March, 1841.

Union Hall Estate, South Naparima.

The Honourable W. H. BURNLEY in the Chair.

Doctor Meikleham called in and examined.

54. The committee understand you are a medical practitioner in the town of San Fernando. How long have you resided there, and what is the extent of your practice?—22 years; and my practice comprehends the quarters of North and South Naparima, Savanna Grande, and part of Pointe-à-Pierre.

55. Have you had any practice amongst the immigrants who have arrived here since emancipation?—A great deal.

56. What is your opinion of their state of health, and capability of standing the climate as labourers?—All those of African descent stand the climate well.

57. Do you include the labourers from the United States of America?—I particularly allude to them. They are only liable to a seasoning fever, after which they keep their health well; but they are particularly careless of themselves, and liable to despondency when sick.

58. In what way are they careless?—In exposing themselves. After work they will recline on the ground, and in eating canes and unripe fruit.

59. What is your opinion of the liberated Africans?—The same as the Americans. They are all liable to a seasoning fever at first.

60. You can have no recollection of the period when slaves were introduced, but from your study and reading you are aware that they were subject to a variety of diseases, from which great mortality ensued; might not the same consequences again occur if Africans were introduced in large numbers?—I do not think so. Formerly they were bound to a particular spot, and were compelled to work against their inclination; now they can do as they please, and go where they please.

61. What is your opinion with respect to Europeans as labourers in this climate?—They are not adapted for field labour, and should never be so employed; but may be made useful as stock-keepers, carters, and tradesmen.

62. As your business leads you much over the country, can you inform the Committee whether any individuals are settling upon the Crown lands?—I am told that many have settled about Pointe-à-Pierre, and that the planters there are complaining much of it, but of my own knowledge, I am not acquainted with the fact.

63. Amongst the labourers you have attended, do many of them reside upon the lands they have purchased?—A great number.

64. Of what class are they generally?—They are principally those who were formerly slaves upon the estates; very few immigrants have yet purchased lands.

65. How do they principally employ themselves?—They cultivate their own land, and occasionally work out.

66. Have these purchases of land been made principally since emancipation?—In most cases.

67. The Committee have been told that provisions and small stock are now scarcer and dearer than at any former period. How do you account for this, if so many have lately purchased, and now cultivate land on their own account?—They cultivate generally for their own consumption, and sell little in the market.

68. By whom was the country formerly supplied with provisions?—By the slaves.

69. But as the majority of these persons, although now free, are in possession of the same grounds, what is the cause of the diminished supply?—From cultivation having been generally neglected by them throughout these quarters.

70. But is it not generally understood that they live much more expensively than formerly, and how is this increased expense supported?—I suppose they find it easier to gain money by working occasionally upon sugar estates.

71. Then you are of opinion that the high wages they receive has induced them to neglect the cultivation of provisions for sale?—Decidedly so.

72. Under such circumstances, with a large consumption and high price for provisions, would it not be highly advantageous for small farmers to establish themselves for the production of these articles?—I should think so; but I have observed no where any such attempt.

73. How is the town of San Fernando in which you reside supplied with provisions?—With corn, cassava, plantains, poultry, and pigs from the Spanish Main principally; and with yams from the island of Grenada.

74. Is the supply, then, from the country around inconsiderable?—Extremely so; a great many of the smaller class of vegetables are brought from Port of Spain by the steamer, and small craft.

75. Has the population of San Fernando increased lately?—I think it has trebled in the town and vicinity since emancipation.

76. Is this population generally orderly and peaceable?—Tolerably so; something better than it was two years ago, when it was much the reverse.

77. To what do you ascribe the latter improvement?—To the activity and firmness of our present resident magistrate in San Fernando.

78. Are many offences against property or person committed?—Petty thefts are very numerous,

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79. How far do you consider the present Police force adequate to the repression of any disturbance or breach of the peace, should it occur?—Possibly the Police force in San Fernando, consisting of a serjeant and seven men, may be sufficient for that town, as there is a military post in the vicinity, but certainly not for the country around.

80. Is there then no Police force stationed in the country?—There is a station on the *Union Hall* estate, but there is seldom a constable in attendance in the day time, and never one at night; and there is another station at Savanna Grande, where there is always one serjeant and one constable in attendance.

81. What is the population of the quarters to which this force is expected to afford protection?—It is the whole force for North and South Naparima and Savanna Grande, the population of which may consist of 12,000 souls, but I have never seen any census since 1834.

82. Are there not many special constables who can be called on upon an emergency?—There used to be two on each estate, but I am inclined to think that none have been sworn in, according to law, since December last.

83. From your extensive practice throughout the country you are no doubt well acquainted with the state of the roads; in what condition are they now, compared to what they were formerly?—Very bad indeed; they have been gradually getting worse and worse for the last three years.

84. To what cause do you ascribe this circumstance?—I speak as to the fact. As to the cause it is probably owing to the change of system, and to the difficulty of procuring labour upon the roads since emancipation.

85. From your general acquaintance with the proprietors of estates, are you of opinion that agriculture is in general in a state of prosperity in the three quarters on which you practise?—I think it is improving.

86. Do you think it is profitable?—From all I have heard and have reason to believe, I think that very few estates, after meeting their expenses, have paid ordinary interest of money, in consequence of their enormous expenses in wages of labour, building of cottages, and in the increased cost of every article required upon an estate, with the exception of the home supplies.

87. Are you of opinion that the opening of San Fernando as a Port of Entry for foreign vessels will be generally advantageous?—I think it will be of the greatest advantage to all classes throughout the district.

The Rev. Mr. Mühlhauser called in and examined.

88. What is your profession, and how long have you been resident in the colony?—I am a clergyman of the Church of England, and have had for the last five years spiritual charge of the district of San Fernando, which includes North and South Naparima, Pointe-à-Pierre, and the whole of the southern part of the island from Oropouche to Pointe Icaque.

89. What is your opinion of the general state of the labouring classes since the abolition of apprenticeship?—I think their state is generally improving, both physically and morally; but unfortunately they receive too much rum from the planters, which frequently renders them unable to attend Divine service, and indifferent to improving their minds.

90. Are you aware of any means by which this evil practice could be repressed? Is there no temperance society established in the quarter?—There is none established as yet; a great difficulty arises from the population being collected from all parts of the world, who are as yet not settled or stationary, and I think the most efficient means at the present moment, would be to render it illegal to distribute rum amongst the labourers, which I consider the greatest obstacle to their moral improvement. With respect to marriage, their improvement has been very great: in 1836, I united only one couple—in 1837, three—in 1838, seven—in 1839, fifteen—and in 1840, twenty-nine.

91. Do you think they are generally impressed with a due sense of the duties and obligations of a married state?—I think so, for with one exception, all are now living happily together.

92. Do you think that the industry of the labourers has generally improved since emancipation?—I can only speak as to the estates which fall under my ministry, and I think they are improving in industry, although there is certainly a great opening for further improvement in this respect.

93. Can you point out to the Committee any measures which will tend, in your estimation, to their further improvement?—I think it would be very advantageous if the practice of paying the people on Sundays, which I know exists in many cases, were entirely done away with, as it frequently interferes with their attendance on Divine service.

94. Are you aware of any other improvement by the planters which you can suggest?—I recollect only one—that of discontinuing to cart produce on the Sunday, but which, I am ready to admit, is much less frequent than it was formerly.

95. In general, what are the circumstances and condition of the labouring class which compose your flock—are any of them in want, or in a state of destitution?—Their circumstances are very comfortable, and I know that many of them are saving money.

96. Is that the case generally with all the immigrants?—Generally. Every man who is willing to work can find employment at good wages. Many of the young immigrants are too fond of play and carousing, and neglect, in consequence, their religious duties as well as their work; and I have much trouble in impressing moral duties upon them.

97. But in consequence of this neglect of work, are you aware of any of them being in a state of want or starvation?—None. The high wages they receive when they do work, prevents that.

98. Are you at all aware of any suffering from sickness or mortality amongst the immigrants of your flock?—No, not more than amongst the natives.

99. Are their children well provided with schools in this colony?—Yes. In proportion to the population, I may say as well provided as in any island in the West Indies. But many difficulties occur from the population being so thinly scattered over the country.

100. You are then of opinion that if the population were more dense, it would be more conducive to their moral and religious improvement?—Decidedly so, if the religious establishments and means of instruction were increased in the same proportion: at the present moment, any number of immigrants arriving in North and South Naparima, and Savanna Grande, would find within a reasonable distance, churches and chapel schools in which Divine service is performed every Sunday regularly.

101. Have you met with any backwardness amongst the proprietors to assist in promoting these objects? Generally speaking, I have met with great support. Land has in all cases been given

gratuitously; labour, in many instances, particularly in the cartage of materials, and the pecuniary subscriptions have been very liberal to the church at San Fernando.

102. Have you any liberated Africans attached to your church?—A few.

103. If any more should arrive, what would be the best measures, in your opinion, to adopt?—It is my opinion that on arrival, they should be generally divided, and mixed among the inhabitants, where they could be regularly visited and instructed by a minister.

104. Is there any hospital established in San Fernando for the use of this district?—There is none, which is a great deficiency, for there is none nearer than Port of Spain; and frequently the captains of Droghers and the Steamer will not take them up when extremely sick, as it would deter other passengers from embarking. I have been obliged to pay as high as seven dollars to get a sick person conveyed to town.

105. Would it not be possible in this populous district, to establish an hospital by voluntary subscriptions?—I do not think it could be done by voluntary subscriptions alone; they might come in aid of a government establishment, and there are really so many urgent cases of distress, arising from accidents, that it would be most desirable to have one established.

106. As by your statement the labouring classes make money with so much facility, would it not be advantageous to establish a benefit society amongst them, for their protection in sickness?—I have a benefit society, but it only embraces assistance in old age, nourishment and attendance in sickness, and in case of death, funeral expenses; and three dollars afforded to married lying-in-women; but it does not afford medical treatment, as the funds are not sufficient.

107. Do you generally find the labourers disposed to subscribe to this fund?—Not generally. The whole number does not exceed 120 to 130. When in good health they are not disposed to pay for future sickness, which, they imagine, will never occur. But it is a matter so essential, that every effort will be made to increase the society for the future.

Thursday, 6th May, 1841.

Paradise Estate, Tacarigua.

The Honourable W. H. BURNLEY, in the Chair.

The Rev. J. H. Hamilton called in and examined.

108. The Committee are informed that you are a clergyman of the Church of England. How long have you resided in the colony, and what districts are included in your spiritual charge?—Nearly four years. St. Joseph's, Tacarigua, Arouca, and Arima, are all under my charge.

109. What do you consider to be the population of these districts, and what proportion of them are attached to your flock?—I really know of no correct data on which to form an estimate. The population has increased since emancipation, and is increasing every day. Three large villages have sprung up on the line of road to Arima, and settlers are establishing themselves everywhere. The number attending the ministry of the Church of England may amount to about 1500 adults.

110. What accommodation do you possess in these districts in the shape of churches and schools?—One school-house in Tacarigua, erected by private subscription, amounting to 636*l.* sterling, towards which the bishop of the diocese furnished 150*l.* sterling, capable of containing 250 persons, and which is on Sundays used as a place of Divine worship. In the town of St. Joseph's, an old barrack-room serves as a school-room and place of Divine worship on Sunday; and in the village of Arima, the police station serves for similar purposes.

111. Do you consider these accommodations to be sufficient?—Certainly I do not.

112. What do you find to be the state of morality amongst the labouring classes?—Generally speaking their moral and religious state is at a very low ebb indeed, but a gradual improvement is taking place.

113. In what particular points do you find this improvement?—In a more steady attendance at Divine service, and less desecration of the Sabbath in dancing and other riotous amusements: increasing marriages, and the abandonment of many superstitious and improper customs.

114. Do you think that they have latterly improved in industry, frugality, and sobriety?—Considering their recent emancipation, and the benighted state in which it found them, added to the very high rate of wages they receive, I think there is more industry amongst them than we could reasonably have anticipated. With regard to their sobriety, the large quantity of rum gratuitously distributed on the estates, presents a temptation to inebriety which they cannot resist; and I certainly cannot say that they are frugal, being very extravagant in their dress, and squander much money in amusements and luxuries.

115. Then you do not consider that they have improved in these respects since emancipation?—Quite the reverse. The high wages they receive, and their few necessary wants, supply too ample means for temptation.

116. Are you of opinion that any real solid improvement in religious morality can accompany such a state of society?—It certainly renders it more difficult, but as their opportunities of religious improvements are now increased, I have every hope, when the evils alluded to meet the attention of Government, that these difficulties will be gradually removed.

117. You have stated that one great cause of their inebriety arises from the quantity of rum distributed gratuitously by the planters. Have you endeavoured to inculcate upon your parishioners the propriety of giving up this demoralizing practice?—Frequently.

118. What answer has been made to your representations? Do they hold out any hope or expectation of the practice being shortly abandoned?—The planters have invariably admitted that the practice is demoralizing and pernicious, but complain of a want of unanimity in endeavouring to put it down.

119. But do you consider it a valid objection that an individual should not abandon a bad practice because his neighbour refuses to reform also?—I do not consider it a good objection, but under existing circumstances an individual might suffer most materially, in fact he might lose many of his labourers, by attempting such a reform alone.

120. Then you think that the difficulty in the way of reform lies more with the labouring population than with the planters?—I do not consider that the labourers as a body would object to the withdrawal of the allowance of rum, whether effected through a Government order or otherwise, provided they received an equivalent in money.

121. What then are the Committee to understand to be the existing circumstances which you stated in a former reply, would prevent a planter from attempting this reform lest he should incur the risk

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of losing his labourers?—The existing circumstances to which I alluded are founded upon a paucity of labourers, and the competition for their services tends to the continuance of the evil, for the planters are unable to suppress the practice unless they act with unanimity.

122. You are then of opinion that if some of the planters withdrew the allowance of rum, whilst others continued it, that the latter would have greater advantages in the market for labour?—I consider that the measure must be universal and unanimous to succeed.

123. Has any temperance society been formed in these districts?—Not to my knowledge.

124. As the Committee know that the Agricultural Society as a body have recommended to his Excellency the Governor to establish a money-rate in lieu of the allowance of rum now given, and as you seem of opinion that the labourers would agree to the commutation, might not great facilities to the change be afforded by establishing a temperance society in these districts?—Gradual good might result therefrom, but from the large quantity of spirits delivered, great difficulty would attend the measure.

125. Does not the greatest of the evil suggest the necessity of immediately adopting a measure which would tend, although only slowly and gradually, to remove it?—From the low state of their moral and religious character, and the little trust to be placed in any temperance pledge that might be given by the labourers, with the facility of evading it and the temptation so to do, I think that very little good would result from the adoption of a temperance society.

126. What is the general condition of the labouring class composing your flock? Are they ever in want of employment, or of the means of procuring a comfortable subsistence?—They are never in want of employment, and are in a state of great prosperity; and they have a great command of money, as evinced in the expenses they incur in dress and domestic comforts.

127. Do they pay readily for the schooling of their children?—The charge imposed is half a bit (2½d. sterling) per week for each child, to which they were much opposed at first.

128. Have you many immigrants under your spiritual charge?—Several from the Leeward Islands, and some from the United States of America.

129. Do they enjoy the same advantages as the natives in finding constant employment and making money?—Equally the same, besides some extra allowances for the first six months after their arrival, to afford them time to establish gardens.

130. The Committee understand from your former replies, that a large number of labouring immigrants have arrived since emancipation in these districts, and you say that they are encouraged to cultivate gardens. Have they, to your knowledge, assisted in any way to reduce the price of small stock and garden stuffs by their labour?—No, they have not; on the contrary, I think that poultry and vegetables are now higher in price than ever they were.

131. Is it within your knowledge that labourers have generally a great deal of leisure time which might be devoted to the raising of these articles?—Yes, they have, as I generally meet them in my pastoral visits to the estates, returning from their daily labour out of crop season, between eleven and twelve o'clock in the morning, having the remainder of the day to themselves.

132. If provisions and vegetables are then so scarce, and prices so high, to what circumstance do you ascribe their not furnishing a better supply to the market?—They generally consume themselves the poultry and vegetables they raise, and their wages are so ample, that they find no necessity for any further exertion.

133. Do you believe that they are generally furnished upon estates with as much ground as they may wish to cultivate?—To the best of my knowledge, there is no limit to the extent of the ground they may wish to cultivate in these districts.

134. Would labourers, either native or immigrant, find any difficulty in purchasing lands if they are so disposed?—I know of no difficulty, and in many cases they have already purchased extensively. Most estates have more land uncultivated than they have in use, which the proprietors, I believe, would readily sell.

135. Have immigrants suffered severely from sickness or mortality?—The Europeans have, but those of African descent are liable generally to a seasoning fever only, and as far as I can ascertain, the mortality is not greater than amongst the natives.

136. Have you reason to believe that they have generally improved their condition by migrating to this island?—They have certainly bettered their condition by finding higher rates of wages, and unlimited employment.

137. Do you think that the native labourers have in any way been injured, or their circumstances deteriorated by the introduction of so many immigrants?—Their temporal condition has been by no means injured, and I think that the introduction of the immigrants from the United States of America and the old islands, will tend, by the better example they have shown, to improve their moral conduct; and as many of the existing evils in our rural population arise from the great demand for labourers, the consequent competition for their services amongst the proprietors, and the various indulgences afforded to the former, I cannot but think that these evils have been in some degree lessened by the number of immigrants introduced.

138. To what do you ascribe the moral superiority you have observed amongst the old islands labourers, as compared to our own?—From a residence for many years in most of the Leeward Islands, I ascribe it to more attention having been paid to their moral and religious instruction, both in early years and after life, and from the means of religious instruction being easily accessible to all classes.

139. Are you of opinion then that this Colony does not furnish the same facilities for religious instruction as the old islands?—I do not think it does.

140. Will you state your reasons for coming to this conclusion?—In the extensive districts of which I am minister, there was, at the period of my arrival, only one small school in the town of St. Joseph's, and in the populous quarter of Tacarigua there was neither school-house nor church. Although by the liberality of the proprietary body and others, aided by the bishop of the diocese, we have since erected a large and commodious school-house, we still require a church, for which I have already received very liberal subscriptions from the proprietors and several hundreds of the labourers, and want only aid from the Government to enable me to commence it. And I must also add from my ministerial experience in the old colonies, that they present, in consequence of their dense population and limited size, facilities for imparting instruction, which the scattered population of this large island cannot at present afford.

141. In what way does our scattered population present obstacles to religious instruction?—From the great distance between the different settlements rendering a communication with the resident population extremely difficult, and in some seasons almost impossible; and, as an instance, I may

state that I have recently visited the settlements of the disbanded black soldiers at Manzanilla, at the request of the bishop, and although I am the nearest Protestant minister, and might effect a little good by occasional visits, I find that I should be unable to pay them that close attention which their spiritual wants require, solely from the difficulties arising from the distance and the bad state of the roads.

142. The Committee beg to know whether you are in any way interested in the profits of sugar cultivation?—I am not in any way.

143. Your statements, then, with respect to the conduct and morals of the labouring population, result solely from your intercourse with them in your ministerial capacity?—Completely so.

144. With respect to the domestics of your household, has their conduct improved since emancipation, or not?—I have found some good, and some quite the reverse.

145. Has the rate of wages for domestics increased?—I am obliged to pay very high wages; I pay a man servant twelve dollars a month, and a female servant ten dollars.

146. Do you contract for their services by the year or the month?—By the month.

147. Do you require in all cases certificates of character previously to taking them into your service?—I regret to say that such certificates are, generally speaking, neither given nor required in this colony.

148. Do you not consider this to be a necessary precaution?—I do; but such is the scarcity of domestic servants, that necessity obliges us to take those whose characters will not always stand the test of rigid inquiry.

149. Can you depend upon their remaining steadily in your service for any length of time?—They consider themselves bound for only one month, and might be disposed to remain steadily in your service, but in crop season are tempted to resort to the estates by the high wages given, and quit your service.

150. Why do you not then engage their services by the year?—Because they will not enter into any such contract.

151. Are you then liable to be left occasionally without any domestics?—That has occurred to me once, lately, with respect to female servants.

152. Independently of the gratuitous distribution of rum of which you have complained, are you aware of any other proceedings of the planters unfavourable to the moral improvement of the labourers?—I have reason to believe that the payment of wages on Sunday continues in some instances.

153. The Committee have been informed that in some parts of the island cartage of produce on the Sunday has not altogether ceased; have you observed any such practice in your districts?—I have seen it done very rarely, and I have reason to believe not by any portion of the Protestant inhabitants.

154. You have stated that you recently visited, at the request of the bishop, the settlements of the black disbanded soldiers to the eastward; in what condition do they appear, as compared to the settlements and villages in these districts?—Some of their houses are very good, but the generality of them very inferior; and with regard to dress and exterior appearance, they are much behind the agricultural labourers in the sugar districts.

155. Do they exhibit neat cultivation, showing an appearance of abundance around them?—Some few had tolerable gardens, but the houses of the majority are surrounded with brushwood, without any signs of cultivation; their provision grounds are planted, I understand, at a distance.

156. What do you compute to be the distance between the nearest and furthest settlement?—I consider it to be fifteen miles from La Sieve to Manzanilla.

157. Do they keep the line of road in good order?—A distance of nine miles from Terrure to Mount Calabash was almost impassable at my visit, from bad bridges, fallen trees, and mud, although it was in the middle of the dry season; the remainder, from the nature of the soil and the locality, forms a tolerable bridle road.

158. Do they seem in a prosperous state, as if in possession of abundant means?—They seem to be in possession of abundance of provisions, but they complained to me of the great difficulty of converting them into money; that occasionally their yams rotted on their hands from their inability to find a market for them.

159. What distance then do you compute their settlements to be from the market of Tacarigua, where articles of this description are represented to be so scarce and dear?—A distance of about 25 miles, rendering it impossible for any profitable purpose to convey their provisions to this market.

160. What is apparently their moral and religious condition?—I am sorry to say that their moral and religious state is most deplorable. From the entire want, for a long series of years, of clerical instruction, even the outward form of Christianity has almost disappeared amongst them; indeed, melancholy to relate, many of them have relapsed into the errors of Mahometanism, under the guidance of three Mandingo priests established amongst them. One of the number can write, and has copied portions of the Koran, which he reads to his assembled followers, and to whom they seem to look up with the greatest reverence. It is necessary to observe, that these men, when in the British army, were instructed by the military chaplains in the doctrines of the Established Church, and, but for their removal to so isolated a position, a consequent privation of all means of confirming them in the faith of our holy religion, might at this day have been good Christians.

161. What remedy would you recommend for this evil?—On this subject I have already addressed his Excellency the Governor and the Bishop of the Diocese, and suggested the necessity of a resident clergyman, efficient schoolmaster, and a regular medical practitioner, as they have no physician within thirty miles of them; and if this cannot be effected, I certainly think it will be expedient to remove them to a more settled and civilized district, where these wants can be supplied.

162. Do you think that the settlers themselves would be disposed to adopt the latter alternative?—The two propositions were made to me by the people themselves; and from what I saw and heard as to the difficulty of conveying their produce to a market, I think they would rather incline to the latter alternative. The government has certainly done every thing in its power to obviate the difficulty, by sending a vessel occasionally to carry the produce of their gardens to Port of Spain; but from the length, difficulty, and danger of the voyage, the whole arrangement is liable to frequent disappointment.

163. Have you had any intercourse with the liberated Africans landed here about five years ago?—Very little.

164. Do you think that the introduction of any additional number of these people from Sierra Leone, or elsewhere, would be attended with any inconvenient or disadvantageous results?—I do not see that any disadvantage could arise from it.

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Saturday, 8th May, 1841.

Port of Spain.

The Honourable W. H. BURNLEY in the Chair.

Richard S. Darling, Esquire, called in and examined.

165. How long have you resided in this colony?—Between nine and ten years.

166. In what capacity or profession?—I first acted as Planting Attorney for Joseph Wilson, Son, and Co., of Dublin. I am now in general mercantile business, and act as attorney for seven estates in different parts of the island.

167. As you were here during slavery and apprenticeship, please to state whether the expenses of cultivation have much increased since emancipation?—The expenses of cultivation have nearly doubled; the cash wages alone, without allowances, being nearly one-half of the whole expenditure.

168. At what rate were wages fixed immediately after emancipation?—At 80 cents, (15*d.* sterling) with some allowances per task.

169. What do you mean by a task?—A certain amount of labour which we agreed to take in lieu of a day's work.

170. Did it constitute in fact a good day's work?—Not at all; it was frequently and easily performed in four hours.

171. What was the cause of the planters selecting this small portion, instead of requiring a good day's labour?—The planter did not select or fix it. He found this small task already established as a day's labour. The slaves had been for years endeavouring to do as little work as possible, and trying to conceal their power and capability, in which they were uniformly supported by the Protector of Slaves and Stipendiary Magistrates.

172. Are you then of opinion that habits of industry amongst the negroes were injured by the ordinances for melioration of slavery?—They certainly encouraged the desire which every man naturally has, of doing as little work as possible.

173. You state that the labour market opened after emancipation at a fixed price per task. Can all work on a sugar estate be done by the task?—Not all. It is principally confined to weeding, trenching, and all out-of-crop-work in general. In time of crop it is limited to cutting canes, carting and crooking them to the mill; but in all cases, whether by task or the day's work, you are obliged to stipulate what the day's work should be, to insure a reasonable quantity being performed.

174. In hiring labourers by the day for work in the mill and boiling house, at what hour do they turn out in the morning?—It is very difficult to get the work fairly commenced before seven in the morning, and generally it ends between five and six. Great loss ensues from the present mode of proceeding, particularly in this island, where the dry weather, in which the crop is made, is more limited in time than in the old islands.

175. Would it not be possible to save the crops in our short dry season, by hiring additional hands to work in the mill and boiling-house after half-past five and six o'clock in the evening for extra wages?—Quite out of the question. With our present limited population, it is difficult to induce them to work steadily during the hours which they themselves have selected.

176. You are not then always sure of their working during the hours you have mentioned?—Never; it depends entirely upon the will and pleasure of the labourers. You cannot tell on Saturday night whether your mill can be put about on Monday or not; and nothing insures its being done on any day, but having more labourers settled on the estate than is necessary to do the work. They do, in fact, as they please. On the Hermitage Estate, a week or two since, we stopped the mill for the purpose of getting the canes weeded, but they all refused to weed, and after attempting it for a week, we were obliged to desist and recommence grinding canes again.

177. Why do you not attempt to make fixed contracts with your labourers, before a magistrate, to work for the crop season, or even a month or a week?—They invariably refuse to enter into any contracts, and can always find employment whenever they please without it. They even frequently throw up their work after it is commenced, from the most capricious motives. I have known a carter, directed to take canes from a particular part of the field, which being cut earliest were liable to become sour, declare that he would not be dictated to, and leave his cart in the field. They frequently refuse to work unless allowed to take some favourite animal in preference. On Retrench Estate, in South Naparima, which in general is as well supplied with labour as those around it, some feast or holiday, about a month since, attracted the Spanish peons, who usually cut our canes, and the whole manufactory would have been stopped if other labourers were not procured to supply their places. The manager had the greatest difficulty in inducing the labourers previously engaged to weed, to cut canes in their stead, and then only under the condition that they should be allowed to cut what piece they pleased on the estate, and he was obliged to consent to their cutting a piece which had been reserved in the proper routine of the work until a later period, by which our whole plans are materially deranged.

178. In the cases alluded to, cannot you obtain redress by application to a magistrate?—In the case of the Retrench Estate, which is in South Naparima, the proprietors in general consider it to be useless to apply for redress to the stipendiary magistrate appointed to act in that district. In the first place, he does not understand the language of the inhabitants of the quarter, who almost without exception, speak French and English, whilst he is a native of Spain; and, in general, very little confidence is placed in his judgment. But even in other districts, where no objection to the magistrate exists, so much uncertainty prevails as to the result—so much loss of time by attendance of managers and witnesses, with a great risk of much unpopularity attaching to the former, interfering with his future exertions to procure labour—that it is in general found advisable to pass over even more heinous offences than I have enumerated. Even when I have represented to the managers that it would never answer to pass over all offences, and that it would be better to select some one culprit as an example, we have found, after going to the expense of citing the party, that it operated only as a notice for him to abscond, taking with him such tools belonging to the estate as happened to be in his possession.

179. Have they, then, no fixed property of their own upon the estate to prevent such practices?—Very few have. The great majority are in an unsettled state, having no fixed residence, moving about from estate to estate, which accounts for the difficulty which I understand exists in the way of making out a census of the population, which cannot be correctly effected unless the whole are numbered on one fixed day. Even then it would be imperfect, as you cannot ascertain what number may have taken up their lodgings in the labourers' houses during the preceding night, and no true

information can be extracted from the labourers themselves on the subject. There are a certain number of the old estates' people of a different character, who possess some property; many of them own and keep horses upon the estate, and this class of persons is generally well behaved.

180. Do you consider, then, our native labourers more settled in their habits than the immigrants?—Much more so. I will make this distinction in favour of the Americans, that they do not move from mere caprice as the others do, but from a wish to undertake more profitable employments; and I think they will, ultimately, as many have already done, abandon daily labour on estates and become contractors for job-work, and act as middle-men.

Are you acquainted with the liberated Africans as labourers?—I have employed a great number of them, and, generally speaking, prefer them as labourers to the old island immigrants. They are steadier workers and more hardy in the field.

182. Has there been a considerable immigration of labourers into the colony since emancipation?—Very considerable, and it seems to become more steady and regular every day.

183. You stated in one of your former replies that wages had been fixed at the period of emancipation at 30 cents (1s. 3d. sterling) for the task. Have they fallen since, in proportion to the number of immigrants arriving?—Instead of falling they have been gradually rising, and are now at a higher point than they have ever been before.

184. How do you account for this very extraordinary anomaly?—To the continued competition for labourers amongst the planters, coupled with the gradual rise in the price of sugar during the same period. And it must also be borne in mind, that although the number of immigrants has been great, the number of day labourers has by no means increased in the same proportion; in fact the higher the wages, the less is the necessity of working steadily.

185. Why, then, have not the proprietors in the colony combined to keep down the rate of wages to its original standard?—It was partially attempted, but entirely failed, as there was found to be no steady or honest co-operation; and I may add as another reason for increased wages, that great numbers of labourers are continually settling on lands they have purchased, and a very great number upon lands belonging to other persons or to the Crown.

186. If squatting is then carried on to so great an extent, why do not the planters, who are so much interested in the matter, take measures to prevent it?—It cannot be prevented under the present ordinance from its inherent defects, and never will be under any ordinance, unless an executive officer is appointed by Government to enforce it. I know at this moment of a case in which the squatters are well known to the adjacent proprietors, but lest they should lose the few days' labour which they occasionally afford, they are not disposed to take steps which might lead to their ejection, although they are continually complaining of the circumstance.

187. You have stated that wages have been increasing in proportion to the rise in the sugar market. Has not, then, the profits of cultivation been greater in 1840, during the extreme high prices of sugar, than in 1838 and 1839?—Certainly not. I rather think much less; many estates, I am sure, must have incurred a great loss; but the expenses of an estate are not solely dependent upon the rate of wages; they have latterly been materially increased by the growing carelessness of the labourers, the irregularity of their work, and their reckless disregard of the stock and utensils. I paid, at first, the mule-boys and carters in proportion to the number of loads of canes they brought to the mill; but this, in most instances, I have been obliged to renounce to save the cattle from being over-driven. Great loss also arises from the labourers taking our canes to any extent they please for themselves and pigs, which the manager is obliged to wink at; without adverting to the fires which are continually occurring from their carelessness, by which the heaviest losses are sustained.

Monday, 24th May, 1841.

Port of Spain.

The Honourable W. H. BURNLEY in the Chair.

W. Hamilton, Esquire, called in and examined.

188. The Committee understand that you have recently arrived in this colony with a large number of liberated African labourers from Sierra Leone: be so good as to explain the circumstances under which this voyage was undertaken?—In consequence of a communication from the Governor of Sierra Leone to Lord John Russell, stating a desire on the part of the liberated Africans to emigrate to Trinidad, I was applied to by several gentlemen in London connected with the latter colony who, having heard that I had resided upwards of three years in Sierra Leone, consulted with me as to the disposition of the people to emigrate, and in such case whether I would superintend the expedition. Being convinced of the practicability of the plan, and of the advantages it held out to Africa, as well as to the West Indies, I undertook the management of the first attempt, and having obtained the consent of the colonial minister, embarked in the *Elizabeth and Jane*, a vessel engaged for the purpose, and arrived in Sierra Leone, after a passage of 30 days, on the 16th March, and reported my arrival to Sir John Jeremie, the Governor, and acquainted his Excellency with the object of my visit to the colony.

189. Did Sir John Jeremie appear to be aware of the object of your voyage previous to your arrival?—He was aware of it, and stated the same to me.

190. What orders and instructions did he give in consequence?—He stated that he would not interfere in any way with the disposition of the people with respect to emigration, but leave them to pursue their own inclinations entirely, which he acted upon throughout, and two days after my arrival issued a circular to the managers of the different villages, directing them to act upon the same principle.

191. Did you in effect meet with any difficulty or obstruction from any of the subordinate authorities of the colony to the objects of your mission?—Not the slightest; but my operations were confined to Freetown, where I met with no obstruction on the part of the authorities. I found some rumours afloat, that the people on arrival in the West Indies would be sold into slavery, the source of which I could not trace.

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true account of the state of affairs in the West Indies; and after some shrewd and close inquiries had been made at that source, I found that I had as many applicants as the *Elizabeth & Jane* could carry.

194. When you say that no obstructions were thrown in your way, do you mean that you had no formalities to comply with, or fees to pay, prior to the embarkation of the emigrants?—By a colonial law, persons intending to leave the colony are compelled to post up their names ten days previously in the Secretary's office, and take out a passport, for which a fee of 2s. 6d. sterling is charged; but his Excellency Sir John Jeremie, when made acquainted with the circumstance, expressed his intention to modify or remove this regulation.

195. Were you furnished with a copy of our Trinidad Immigration Ordinance previous to your leaving London?—Yes, I was.

196. Were you governed by this Ordinance with respect to the number of passengers, and the stores and provisions required to be embarked for their use during the voyage?—I intended and expected to have acted under the regulations of this Ordinance, but found that I was required in Sierra Leone to act under an Ordinance promulgated by Sir John Jeremie, which, from the extended scale of allowance with respect to water, entailed a great expense in the additional purchase of casks.

197. What is the difference in the allowance of water required under the two Ordinances?—The difference is 3-10ths of a gallon per day in the Sierra Leone Ordinance; but in addition, the passage is rated at eight weeks instead of six, allowed by the Trinidad regulation.

198. What was the length of your passage?—Within twenty-nine days from embarkation to coming to anchor in the harbour of Port of Spain.

199. Do you not consider this a very short passage, and much less than an average one?—I do not. The whole distance is about three thousand miles, and we had light airs and calms about ten days on the coast; and I fairly consider thirty days to be a certain average passage.

200. The Committee observe by parliamentary papers laid before the House of Lords in 1791, relative to the slave trade, that the average length of passages was considered at that time to be fifty-one days?—This might have been an average passage, taking all the ports and places nearer the line from whence slaves were brought, but considering the position of Sierra Leone, with a trade wind regularly blowing across the Atlantic, I am decidedly of opinion, which in some respects I may be considered as competent to give, having sailed twenty years in the royal navy, that thirty days from Sierra Leone to Trinidad is a fair average passage.

201. You had then a large surplus of water and provisions on hand when you arrived?—Yes, I had, but the provisions were very saleable. The loss arose principally from the overstock of water which took up much room on board, and required an extra number of casks, upon which there has been great loss.

202. Did Sir John Jeremie's ordinance differ from the Immigration Act of Trinidad with respect to the number of passengers, and the equal proportion of the sexes, which the latter prescribes?—Sir John Jeremie's ordinance was, in fact, an adoption of the British Passengers' Act (save and except the allowance of food and water), which Act agrees with that of Trinidad with respect to the proportion of the number of passengers to the tonnage, but contains no restriction as to the equal proportion of the sexes. But His Excellency stated that he had no objection to my taking three males to two females, which I could not venture to act upon, having been instructed in London to adhere strictly to the Trinidad Ordinance.

203. But it appears that Sir John Jeremie would not allow you to act under the Trinidad Ordinance with respect to the allowance of water and provision?—Certainly not, and I could not have sailed without complying with his regulations.

204. You then in fact were bound by the most stringent and unfavourable regulations which were to be found in both ordinances?—Certainly. I was obliged to follow the Sierra Leone Ordinance with respect to the extra quantity of water, and have started here at least one-half of what I took on board; and I was also obliged to follow the Trinidad Ordinance with respect to the equal proportion of the sexes, when Sir John Jeremie would have allowed me to take three men to two women, which is the proportion fixed by the Jamaica Act.

205. In this respect, therefore, Jamaica enjoys at the present moment a privilege of which Trinidad is deprived?—Certainly, in respect to the proportion of the sexes, it does.

206. What do you consider to be the population of Sierra Leone?—Near 50,000, in which I include the population of the whole colony.

207. Is not this a smaller number than the whole of the liberated Africans who have been landed from time to time in the colony?—Certainly, for from a document now in my possession the number landed from 1808 to 1833, amounted, even at that distant period, to 44,000, and since then I know that during only two successive years as many as 15,000 more were landed, but in the last case I speak from memory.

208. To what cause do you ascribe this decrease in the population?—To the difference in the proportion of the sexes landed from the captured slave ships, and to the immense number of deaths during the first six months after their arrival.

209. Have you good authority for this statement?—I examined this subject fully when chief clerk in the captured negro department at Sierra Leone, which office I filled for fifteen months, and had free access to all the documents.

210. Could the *Elizabeth & Jane* have brought any cargo from Sierra Leone besides her passengers?—I asked the captain this question at sea, and he told me he could have carried about 250 tons of cargo in addition.

211. What was her tonnage?—336 tons.

212. What articles could be exported advantageously from Sierra Leone to Trinidad, so as to give a vessel carrying passengers, additional profit in freight?—Planks, scantling, and shingles, decidedly, which articles I understand are in great demand in this colony, and bear a high price. Rice also would answer well, as it is frequently to be purchased at Sierra Leone at 7l. sterling a ton. I mean red rice. I am not aware of any other articles which would answer for the market of this colony.

213. What timber do you allude to, and at what price could it be furnished per thousand feet?—Brimstone, white wismore, and cedar, which can be furnished at 25 to 30 dollars per thousand feet.

214. Are these durable woods capable of standing in the ground for any length of time without perishing?—Brimstone is a hard and durable wood, but not so durable as teak, and that would be infinitely higher in price.

215. How long have you now been in the colony, and what opportunity have you had of seeing the

various districts in it?—I have been 15 days in the colony, during which period I have made it my duty to visit every district except Chaguamas, in which the Sierra Leone labourers are located.

216. What was their state of health during the middle passage?—A few of them, according to the doctor's report, suffered from inflammatory fever, shortly after embarking, arising from change of diet as to quantity and quality, from which they soon recovered, and the doctor's principal duty afterwards was to attend to some old sores and ulcers, which several had been labouring under for a long time previously to their coming on board, and the whole landed in excellent health, excepting an infant under twelve months old, who died three days before our arrival from some pulmonary affection.

217. Did they seem happy and contented during the passage, as if under no apprehensions with respect to their future condition?—They appeared quite happy and contented, and the stories which had been circulated in Sierra Leone as to my intention to sell them into slavery was frequently a subject of joke amongst them during the voyage.

218. As since your arrival you have had opportunities of visiting the several estates on which they are settled, please to state their present feelings and impressions?—I have seen the greater part of them; most of them have thanked me for bringing them to a good country, and have asked me to send their friends from Sierra Leone to join them. In no case have I heard a single expression of disappointment except from a few masons and carpenters, who said they could do better in Sierra Leone.

219. Is it possible that they could do better as masons and carpenters at Sierra Leone, as they readily earn here one dollar per day for their work?—Those I allude to were complaining rather of their not finding employment at their trades, than of the amount of wages. They were working as labourers in the cane pieces; but even these requested me to send their friends from Sierra Leone to join them, and on my suggesting that as they were dissatisfied, they had better return and join their friends there, they seem by no means disposed to accede to my recommendation.

220. Are you yourself now seriously of opinion, from what you have seen and witnessed, that these people have greatly improved their condition by coming to this colony?—Not a question of it; and I feel the greatest gratification at having been instrumental in conferring so great a benefit on so many of my fellow-creatures. In the first place, the rate of wages at Sierra Leone does not exceed four-pence per day, and at this rate there is a great scarcity of employment. As assistant surveyor, which office I filled for six months, I have frequently turned away from 200 to 300 men soliciting employment at that rate. I am now talking of Free Town, but in the villages and sea districts, I am at a loss to conceive what employment can be found for the population.

221. How then do they earn the means of subsistence?—By rearing some pigs and poultry.

222. Have they any market to which they can convey these articles?—In the sea districts they have a very limited market in the supply of the schools, but affording a poor resource to so large a population. Free Town, the capital, affords a good market, to which the residents within ten to twelve miles around bring their produce in baskets upon their heads, and return the same day.

223. Do they raise no exportable articles?—A small quantity of ginger, arrow-root, and pepper. I have heard of nothing else.

224. What do you consider to be the quality of soil in Sierra Leone as compared with that of Trinidad?—They may be classed in the two extremes: one as inferior as it can be, and the other amongst the richest I have ever seen.

225. Have any of the emigrants you brought out remarked upon this difference when you last saw them?—They immediately pointed out to me the difference between the canes here and at Sierra Leone, where a few are brought into the market to suck, which in derision they likened to their little finger, as compared to those of this country.

226. Did they find any difficulty in getting into immediate employment on arrival?—Quite the contrary; such was the competition to obtain their services, that they were immediately aware of the increased independence of their position. I even observed it in their bearing to myself.

227. What number of labourers do you think could be procured from Sierra Leone?—Ten thousand could be immediately removed with the greatest advantage to themselves, and to those they would leave behind.

228. Have you had any opportunity of ascertaining what wages the labourers you brought with you have been earning since their arrival?—All had performed one task, by which they earned half a dollar, besides an allowance of salt cod-fish and flour; a few had performed two tasks per day, and when they are better acquainted with the cane cultivation, they will certainly do as much as the native labourers.

229. But if immediately on arrival here, and before they are accustomed to the work, they can easily earn half a dollar a day besides an allowance of provisions, whilst the maximum rate of wages at Sierra Leone is only 4d. per day, would it not be advantageous to the whole population of that colony to remove hither?—Certainly, if wages continued at Sierra Leone at the same rate of depression; but I should hope by the removal of 10,000 to this colony, that wages would rise there and create increased activity and prosperity in the whole community, for I have always observed that a low rate of wages is a concomitant of poverty and distress.

230. But if you think that only 10,000 labourers can be spared from Sierra Leone, this number would constitute a fraction only of the supply required by Trinidad, Guiana, and Jamaica. Are you aware of any other sources from which labourers can be procured on the coast?—By proposing the removal of 10,000 only in the first instance, I anticipate from the rise of wages at Sierra Leone a stream of immigration from the interior, so that notwithstanding a continued and regular emigration of labourers from thence to the West Indies, I have every expectation that the population of Sierra Leone would gradually increase.

231. Pray inform the Committee how many Kroomen you brought with you in the *Elizabeth & Jane*, and what employment they have found in this colony?—There were sixteen of them, and they are all working on plantations.

232. The Committee were under an impression that this class of people would only work on ship-board, or on the sea-shore. How do you account for this circumstance?—I consider their present employment as only temporary, and that they will ultimately resume their favourite occupation on shipboard.

233. Did they make any complaint to you of being obliged to enter into agricultural employments? Not the least. They seemed as well satisfied as the others, and I can only account for what has surprised myself, by supposing that it arises from their being furnished with houses gratis.

234. Do you think that any considerable number of Kroomen can be procured from Sierra Leone

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or elsewhere on the coast, if this colony continues to hold out prospects sufficiently attractive to them?—Yes; I am assured by the Kroomen, who are now here, that many of their countrymen would come if made acquainted with the advantages of Trinidad.

235. But how is the difficulty respecting the equality of the sexes to be got over if the Kroomen, as is generally represented, never carry their families with them?—As they are a stout, fine-looking race of fellows, they will have no difficulty when they know the regulation under which their passages alone can be paid, in inducing a sufficient number of women in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone to accompany them to Trinidad.

236. Are the Kroomen a numerous race of people?—I believe so. I know there is a law which prohibits too great a number of them from settling in Sierra Leone, to prevent their throwing the liberated Africans out of employment.

237. Then in fact the employment we can furnish to the people of Sierra Leone here, will not only benefit them, but other tribes of native Africans on the coast?—Certainly it would.

238. Do the Kroomen you have brought seem anxious to know whether there will be any opportunity by which they may return, should they desire it, to Africa?—They have expressed no anxiety upon the subject, for they are well aware that when they wish to return they have only to enter as seamen on board of ships, and find their way home by way of England. As to the liberated Africans, they seem at present only anxious to have their friends and relatives brought to Trinidad; but I think it would be politic and liberal to furnish a vessel occasionally if any of them should wish to return. I am assured that no great number would feel disposed to avail themselves of the opportunity, for before I left Sierra Leone I pledged myself publicly to pay the passages of six persons back to report as to the actual state of affairs in Trinidad; and I find on recently applying to them, that not six persons are disposed to return, unless they are paid Trinidad wages during their absence.

239. Do you think there would be any difficulty in procuring labourers from other parts of the coast from whence slaves are now brought to foreign colonies?—I do not profess to be well acquainted with other parts of Africa besides Sierra Leone; but I am of opinion that, excepting the Kroomen, few of the natives are perfectly free and independent, and their removal could never be effected without first purchasing the consent of their native chiefs.

240. Where would be the objection to such an arrangement?—I should consider such an arrangement virtually slave-dealing.

241. You do not imagine, then, that after paying their chiefs to allow them to take a free passage to Trinidad, they would be made slaves on their arrival here?—Certainly not.

242. In what respect, then, do you consider that this would be virtually slave-dealing?—It would not be a voluntary act on the part of the emigrants.

243. But could it not be easily made a voluntary act by inducing some of the Kroomen from hence to instruct the natives in the difference between being forced in irons on board a slaver bound to the Brazils or Cuba, there to be worked as slaves for the rest of their lives, or taking the pleasant passage you have described in the *Elizabeth and Jane*, on board a British vessel to a British colony, where they would be employed as freemen at high wages?—I do not think that persons under such circumstances can emigrate voluntarily.

244. The Committee cannot understand why they should not emigrate voluntarily, if thoroughly persuaded that their condition in life would be incalculably benefited by the change. Does not a slave frequently abscond from his master, in spite of all the risks attending such a step; and why should not a native of Africa desire to quit his bondage at home and become a happy freeman in a British colony?—The case of the slave and the supposed emigrant are not parallel cases.

245. In one respect, certainly, the cases are not parallel, as the runaway slave incurs tremendous risks by endeavouring to escape from bondage, whilst the supposed emigrant would incur none by quitting Africa with the consent of his chief; but are they not both slaves in the first instance, and so far, in the most material point, placed in similar circumstances?—I must admit that in places where slaves are purchased the cases are parallel; but I have the strongest objection to such a proceeding.

246. You have admitted the supposed emigrants to be at present in a state of slavery, that they would immediately gain their freedom and be carried to a colony which holds out even to the freeman of Sierra Leone, the greatest inducements for the improvement of his condition. What, then, would be your particular objection to such a mode of proceeding?—I think that a nation which has made such great sacrifices for the abolition of slavery should not tolerate any proceeding which bears the slightest or most distant appearance of slave-dealing.

247. The Committee consent to admit that this may so far wear the appearance of slave-dealing, inasmuch as a slave may be said to be sold when his chief gives up his power to retain him in slavery for a money consideration; but no slave would be purchased, as his freedom would immediately follow. You are well aware that when Europeans were captured and enslaved by Barbary corsairs, their friends and countrymen frequently purchased their freedom from the African chief by whom they were held in possession. Would you press your last objection so far as to say that this was an improper mode of proceeding, as wearing the appearance of slave-dealing; and if not, in what respect would the proceeding first alluded to by the Committee differ from it?—I certainly cannot say that it was an improper mode of proceeding to purchase European captives out of slavery; and, as an abstract question, I cannot say that a difference in colour can make any difference in the mode of proceeding; but after reflecting further upon the nature of the question put to me, I beg to say that I am of opinion that if enslaved Africans can be made to comprehend and appreciate the advantages of their removal to the West Indies, it would be quite immaterial whether the consent of their chiefs was purchased by treaty, presents, or any other consideration, but these unfortunate beings are so degraded and so low in the scale of intelligence, to judge from those landed at Sierra Leone, that it would be hopeless to look for any such conviction, not to mention the mischief which would result from setting such an example to foreign nations.

248. The question, as originally put by the Committee, presupposes that these Africans would be made to comprehend the advantages they would gain by a removal from Africa, and would embark voluntarily?—In this case I can see no objection, but I do not think they would be made to comprehend it.

249. Do you then consider the intellectual condition of the natives of Africa to be so low that they cannot be made to comprehend the difference between the comforts and discomforts of this life, between slavery and freedom—an opinion which the Committee would never have formed, judging by their own experience of the thousand liberated Africans landed in this island five years ago, who appear

to be as acute and intelligent with respect to their personal interests as any labourers in the island. And are you also of opinion that the African recruits who enter every year into our W. I. regiments are not made to understand beforehand that by enlisting they will at least improve their condition—do you really believe that they are not made to comprehend this, and that they do not, in fact, volunteer into the service?—I don't think they have any opinion about it, but are passively guided by their countrymen who are the recruiting sergeants; but, upon reflection, I am disposed to confine my objection to what I before stated as to the mischief which might result from setting such an example.

250. What is the nature of the mischief which you apprehend might result?—I think that foreigners might pretend to follow our example and embark a number of Africans as emigrants for the Brazils and Cuba and make slaves of them on their arrival.

251. Certainly our cruisers could not stop foreign vessels carrying Africans under the same regulations as our immigrant ships; but do you think it will be safe for the slave-dealers to transport them in that unguarded mode, when it becomes known to the natives that they are to be ultimately sold into slavery; or do you think they can afford to carry them as cheaply under such regulations as they do at present?—I do not apprehend that these considerations would be sufficient to deter them, and the objection still continues that they would be enslaved on landing.

252. You are no doubt aware that Sir Thomas Buxton estimates that one-fourth at least of the slaves now embarked on the coast of Africa perish in the middle passage, and that of the remainder one-fifth die afterwards on shore from the misery they have endured by being crammed almost to suffocation in the holds of the ships during the voyage. Now, even admitting what you have asserted, that foreigners would immediately follow our example and convey their slaves as emigrants, would not the avoidance of the horrors of the middle passage, and the saving of thousands of lives, prove, instead of a mischief, a great gain to humanity?—I admit it would be an advantage on the score of humanity, but still deprecate the proceeding as a continuance of the slave-trade.

253. But if it could be proved to your satisfaction that this would be the quickest and most efficacious mode of putting an end to the slave-trade, would your objections to the proceeding still continue?—If such a thing could be proved, certainly not.

254. Do you entertain any doubt, from what you have observed since your arrival, of the correctness of the opinion of the inhabitants of this colony, that our soil is as fertile as that of the Brazils or Cuba, or of any other part of the world?—I admit that it appears extremely fertile, and I am not disposed to doubt the opinion of those best capable of judging, although I cannot answer the question from my own experience.

255. What do you consider would be the expense of removing an African to this colony under our Immigration Ordinance, including the purchase of the consent of his chief to his departure?—Presuming that his consent to make him a free man could not be purchased for less than the sum he now obtains for disposing of him as a slave, this would amount to the 30 dollars, which, added to 30 for his passage, would make 60 dollars the whole cost of bringing a labourer to this colony.

256. Can you state to the Committee the amount paid by a planter in the Brazils or Cuba for the purchase of an African slave?—Sir Thomas Buxton's work states that a slave sells in Cuba for 350 dollars.

257. But to this sum of 350 dollars must you not add the 20 per cent. which is stated in the same work to be the lowest estimate of the loss in seasoning, making the real cost to the planter 420 dollars?—Certainly this must be added.

258. Taking it, then, for granted that our soils are of equal fertility, do you imagine that the planter of Cuba or Brazil could compete with the planter in Trinidad in the cultivation of sugar, when the former is obliged to pay 420 dollars for a labourer whom we could procure for 60 dollars, without adverting to the great additional cost of keeping up a slave population by large annual supplies, whilst our free population would not only support itself but be augmented by a natural increase?—Supposing your soil to be equally fertile with theirs, the advantage would no doubt be greatly on your side.

259. If, then, we could raise sugar cheaper than the planter of these colonies, and had ready access to the same supply of labour, should we not speedily drive them out of every sugar market?—The conclusion is, I think, a natural consequence.

260. Do you believe that they would continue to import slaves from Africa when they ceased to make a profit by it?—Certainly not.

261. The slave trade would then be totally extinguished, would it not?—The slave trade would certainly be abolished, but the very discussion involves a revolting discussion regarding human flesh.

262. In deciding upon the merits of any proceeding, do you judge of it by the language held, and the tone used in its discussion, or by the nature of the ultimate results it is intended to produce?—No results, however desirable, can be justified if arrived at by the sacrifice of feelings which should be cherished by human nature.

263. The Committee cannot understand how your answer applies to the discussion which this examination has led to. It appears by your own admission that the only practical changes which the plan supposed of purchasing the consent of the African chieftains to the emigration of their native subjects would lead to, would be the avoidance of the horrors of the middle passage in the first instance, and the early abolition of the slave-trade afterwards. Can you, on reflection, discover any sacrifice of feeling to be cherished by human nature which would be required under such circumstances?—I am ready to admit that my objections may partake more of sentiment than of reason, but I cannot give any other reply to the Committee.

264. Is it your intention to remain any time in this colony?—It was my original intention to have remained here some time, in order to judge of the condition and prospects of the emigrants I brought over, and of the desirableness or otherwise of recommending a further emigration. But I already find that the people are so well off, that I can be of no service to them; and being fully convinced of the great advantages which the people of Sierra Leone will derive from removing to Trinidad, it is my intention to proceed immediately to recommend the same in London.

265. Is there any other matter upon which you wish to inform the Committee?—I am not aware of anything else I wish to say.

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Wednesday, 26th May, 1841.

*Port of Spain.***The Honourable W. H. BURNLEY** in the Chair.*Richard S. Darling, Esq., again called in and examined.*

266. In a former answer you stated that our native labourers were more steady and more to be depended upon than the immigrants. The Committee have been told by clergymen of the Established Church that they find the labourers from the old islands more moral and better behaved than our natives—how do you account for this difference of opinion?—I do not agree with them in opinion, and only attribute it to their congregations consisting in a great degree of immigrants from the old islands, whilst our native labourers are principally Catholics. If I am to judge of their morality by their honesty and steadiness to their engagements, I can certainly give them no preference to the latter.

267. As some of the estates under your administration are in Tacarigua and some in Naparima, can you explain why carting produce on the Sunday is more prevalent in the latter district than in the former?—It arises from the difference in the soil, and the materials of which the roads are made. In Naparima they are rendered impassable by a very small quantity of rain, rendering it imperative to get the crop shipped before the heavy rains set in, which is not the case in Tacarigua.

268. When a labourer applies to you for employment, do you ever inquire into his moral character, or his reasons for quitting his former service?—Not unless it is to fill some confidential employment, such as overlooker. Ordinary labourers are too much in demand to allow us to scrutinize their character.

269. Have you a general acquaintance with other sugar colonies besides Trinidad?—Very slight.

270. Can you give any opinion as to the fertility of our soil compared with that of Cuba or the Brazils?—I have never been in those places, but I know what our soil is capable of producing, and judging of the results, I am of opinion that there is no soil in any part of the world equal to the black sugar soil of South Naparima.

271. Have you made or seen any calculations as to the quantity of sugar which can be produced annually by the labour of one man on that soil?—I have made the calculation, and am certain that a steady labourer can cultivate a sufficiency of land to make annually from 15 to 20 hogsheads; an extra number of labourers would be required to take off the crop.

272. Can you name the estates on which any such results have been produced?—On the *St. Charles* and *Tarouba* estates, during a period of slavery. Their aggregate crops in 1836 exceeded 500 hogsheads, although the strength of both gangs did not exceed 85; additional hands to the extent of 30 were employed in cutting canes during the crop.

273. But this would only give an average of 6 hogsheads to each individual, instead of 15 to 20 as before stated?—In that calculation I alluded only to what could be done by a single able-bodied man devoting the whole of his labouring hours to the cultivation of the cane. Of course in a gang of slaves the greater number cannot be equally efficient; and many of them are necessarily employed in the care of the stock, making roads and fences, and the various other employments required on a sugar estate.

274. What then is the average amount of sugar you would expect from a free population established on an estate?—If they were compelled by necessity to work as regularly as labourers in most parts of Europe, I should expect a larger result than during slavery, when a man was only obliged to perform a small task. At that time the average was six hogsheads per head; but I am satisfied that with fair, regular, and continuous labour, it might be brought to ten.

275. Are you supposing that the females are to work as steadily as in a period of slavery, and would you calculate upon this as a probable result?—I find in general that the women work much more steadily now than I expected, and I am not disposed to make any material deduction on that account. But I beg to explain that in the numbers given as composing the gangs of the *St. Charles* and *Tarouba* estates, all the children under six years of age were excluded, as by the Act of Emancipation, passed in 1834, they formed no part of the gang; but if the question refers to what might be expected from an agricultural population settled in South Naparima, including all ages and conditions, I should not be disposed to rate the average higher than three to four hogsheads per head.

276. Do you believe then that our export of sugar could be increased 30,000 hogsheads annually by the introduction of only 10,000 African labourers?—Certainly. A force to that extent would be fully adequate to an increased crop of 30,000 hogsheads, after the lapse of a sufficient time.

277. Have you any calculation by you of the quantity of land in the island capable of cultivation?—I have now in my possession a statement which I received from Mr. Basanta, the late Surveyor-General, on whose information I had the greatest reliance, which gives the following results:—

The surface of the island, as calculated by Captain Columbine in his survey in	
in 1803, amounts to 2,400 square miles or	1,536,000 Acres
Of which Mr. Basanta considered that four-fifths were fit for cultivation, or	1,228,800 „
And two-thirds fit for the cultivation of sugar, or	1,024,000 „

278. With respect to locality and accessibility, do you think that any serious difficulties would oppose the bringing of this million of acres into cultivation?—Very little of the interior is known except to surveyors and a few enterprising individuals, but from an inspection of the map, no part is more distant from the sea-board than twenty miles. And from what is easily to be seen from the heights, and by observing the course of the rivers, I think there would be no serious difficulty to the formation of good roads, if sufficient labour, skill, and capital were applied to their construction.

279. But do you not find that in proportion to the fertility of the soil is the difficulty of making roads in this colony, which is the reason that the cultivation of sugar has extended 14 miles into the interior on the northern districts of the island, whilst in the deep rich soil of South Naparima, where the returns are so much greater, the cultivation has not extended beyond five or six miles. And would not the making of 20 miles of road in the latter district present an insuperable difficulty?—Twenty miles of an ordinary road in that district could never be effected, as no material for macadamizing is to be found; but there would be no difficulty in forming a rail-road on the American plan, as the interior is full of the finest description of durable woods.

280. Are you in possession of any calculation showing the expense of such an undertaking?—I have the plan of an American rail-road, composed of sleepers and runners of wood, covered with longitudinal flat iron rails; the whole constructed in the simplest and cheapest mode possible. I

have made an estimate of the cost in this country, substituting our hard wood for American timber, and I make the cost of laying down the same upon a level about 5,000 dollars per mile.

281. But this does not include the cuttings and fillings up of earth to form a level?—Certainly not, and I am quite unable to form any such estimate.

282. But supposing the cost amounted to 30,000 dollars per mile, (which, considering that the whole of the land required could be procured without purchase, and every other material, with the exception of the iron, found on the spot, is probably not too low an estimate)—would it not be cheaper for an individual commencing a new sugar estate in those districts to pay one-fourth of that amount, (which would be his proportion if he had half a mile of frontage to his estate, and the road constituted a boundary between opposite properties), rather than proceed on the present ruinous plan, so destructive to animal life, of conveying his produce over roads at most times bad, and above half the year impassable for carts?—It certainly would for any estate situated above two miles in the interior; but without more capital, enterprise, and science than this colony now possesses, we can hardly hope to see such a work executed.

283. But if it holds out a prospect of great profit to all parties, do you see any difficulty in such a work being executed either by the colonial government, or by a company of capitalists in Great Britain? Look at the map, and suppose the best natural level to be followed into the interior from the sea-board, no matter where it may lead; or take for instance that extensive natural basin which is drained through the Lagoon of Siparia, to the west, into the Gulph of Paria, and by the waters of the Ortoire, to the eastward, into the Atlantic Ocean—which is 40 miles in length, and 10 to 15 in breadth, consisting of the richest soil in the colony—would not the lands situated on each side of a rail-road running directly through it, be bought up with avidity at a price which would soon pay the whole expenses of the undertaking?—It certainly would, provided we are furnished with a sufficient number of labourers to bring those lands into cultivation, which from my own experience and the best information I have received, are amongst the richest in the colony.

284. You are of opinion, then, that the lands of South Naparima which are included in that basin, are amongst the richest in the island?—They are the richest and the best for the cultivation of sugar of any land we have at present in cultivation.

285. With a sufficiency of labour and proper cultivation, how much sugar do you estimate they will produce per acre?—I consider that 5,000*l.* per acre is not an uncommon return for good soil in South Naparima, without manure, and only two weedings.

286. For what length of time will the lands yield without replanting?—Cane pieces have been pointed out to me which have been forty years in cultivation, and are still perfectly good; but the greater part of the South Naparima estates have been settled within the last twenty years.

287. But have they not been frequently replanted during that period?—I understand not; and from what I have observed, they never require replanting, unless ruined by the trespass of stock, or other neglect.

288. From the richness, then, and extent of our sugar soil, do you believe that this island is capable of furnishing a sufficiency of sugar for the consumption of Great Britain?—I believe that it is capable of doing much more, and as cheaply as in any other part of the world, provided we are furnished with labour on equal terms.

289. You have in your former examination informed the committee as to the rates of wages originally fixed after emancipation; please to state the present actual rates?—At present the rate paid in South Naparima since the commencement of crop for weeding is, 50 cents (2*s.* 2*d.* sterling) per task, but we hope to get it down to 40 cents again after crop is over, which was the rate we paid before.

290. How many tasks can a labourer perform per day, with only fair and reasonable exertion?—Two tasks per day is frequently, though not steadily, performed with ease. Three tasks are very generally performed by the Americans, not because they are more able, but are more anxious to amass money.

291. What allowances are given in addition to the 50 cents per task for weeding?—Half a pound of cod-fish, and one or two glasses of rum per task.

292. Do they get a house and grounds also free of all charge?—Yes; and medicine and medical attendance in Naparima are generally given, although it is not the case in Tacarigua.

293. What do you estimate the value of these allowances to be?—The fish and rum are worth 10 cents (5*d.* *stg.*) per task; the house, ground, and medical attendance may be fairly calculated at not less than one dollar per week.

294. Then you consider that an ordinary labourer can every day, if he pleases, by performing two tasks of weeding, earn one dollar and 20 cents (5*s.* *stg.*) without adverting to the value of the house, grounds, and medical attendance?—He can do so very easily.

295. Please to inform the committee as to the rate of wages in crop season?—For ordinary labour about the mill and boiling-house 50 to 60 cents (2*s.* 6*d.* *stg.*), with an increase of allowance in the shape of pork, flour, and biscuit, which are given to the people employed in the following proportions; two biscuits per day to the boiler-men, firemen, magoss and cane-carriers, carters, and crook-boys, with 2 lbs. of pork, and two quarts of flour to the head men per week.

296. At how much do you estimate the value of these allowances?—The value of the whole, including fish and rum, is not less than 20 cents (10*d.* *stg.*) per day.

297. It seems then that in crop season it is difficult to earn in the manufactory more than 80 cents (3*s.* 4*d.* *stg.*) per day, whilst the field labourers can earn one dollar and 20 cents (5*s.* *stg.*). What is the cause of a difference which prevails in no other part of the world where agricultural labourers are paid higher for harvest work than any other?—It is upon the whole lighter and more agreeable work than field labour; and as many of the town people and hucksters are at that season candidates for the employment, we have a greater competition than for field labour; but on account of this difference in wages, many of the best labourers are very unwilling to take their turn about the works.

298. Do you find that wages for the same description of labour vary much in different districts?—A great deal.

299. To what cause do you ascribe it?—To some districts being more unpopular, as being more distant from town, or other trivial and accidental causes; for in all cases wages are so high, and it is so easy to obtain more than a man's wants require, that labourers are not induced by an increase of wages to change their favourite residence.

300. Upon what sum do you think a labourer can live comfortably and creditably for a week in this colony?—It is difficult to get the native labourers to state how they live, but from strangers I have ascertained that 20 to 30 cents (15*d.* *stg.*) for farinaceous food, in addition to their allowance of fish, will support them comfortably for a week.

TRINIDAD.

301. At that rate, then, it is not difficult for an ordinary labourer in this colony to lay by twenty dollars (4l. 3s. 4d. stg.) a-month?—They can do it, certainly, if they please.

Wednesday, 16th June, 1841.

Orange Grove Estate, District of Tacarigua.

The Honourable W. H. BURNLEY in the chair.

Joseph Anthony Guiseppi, Esquire, called in and examined.

303. The committee understand that you are Stipendiary Magistrate for the district of St. Joseph's. —Pray what is the extent of the district in which you act?—The St. Joseph's district consists of the quarters of Cimarone, Aricagua, St. Joseph's, and the valleys of Santa Cruz and Maraccas; and since the death of Capt. Gray, my jurisdiction has been extended over the district of Tacarigua, which comprises the quarters of Tacarigua, Arouca, Arima, Guanapo, Aripo, and Caroni, with the valley of Caura and the settlement of disbanded soldiers as far to the westward as La Ceiva.

303. What do you compute to be the whole distance in miles from one extremity to the other of the districts under your charge?—From east to west the road is in a direct line nearly 30 miles; but taking in addition the different lines of road from north to south, leading to the various places where I may be called upon officially to act, it is necessary to add sixty-three miles more.

304. Are the roads good and passable for carriages throughout these distances, and are all the rivers well bridged over?—The roads are good at present, and fit for carriages on the line to the eastward as far as Aripo; but with the exception of the valleys of Santa Cruz and Maraccas, all the north and south lines consist only of bridle roads; and there are no bridges over the rivers.

305. Are they not liable to frequent and heavy floods, in the rainy season, by which travellers are subjected to much risk and detention?—They are liable to be detained occasionally two or three hours on the banks of a river.

306. How long have you acted as Stipendiary Justice?—From the first establishment of the rural police in August, 1838.

307. Have you any assistant justice to relieve you occasionally in the performance of your duties?—I am the only Stipendiary Justice, but there are three Justices of the Peace selected from amongst the proprietors in the district of Tacarigua, and two in that of St. Joseph's.

308. Can these justices of the peace act independently of yourself?—In some cases, such as the holding of inquests, preserving the peace, and partially under the road ordinance; but no courts either civil or criminal, can be held without my presence.

309. Do any other duties devolve upon you but those enumerated under the Rural Police Act?—I have certain duties to perform under the road ordinance.

310. Have you not the crown lands under your charge?—They are not under my charge; any trespass on the crown lands can be tried and dealt with in my court upon information being first laid before me.

311. Under whose charge are the crown lands in your district placed?—I should think the Surveyor-General.

312. You could not then legally and officially interfere to prevent any invasion of the crown lands, before regular information being lodged against the party trespassing?—No,—the information must be first laid by one of the road commissioners.

313. Have any informations been laid before you in this matter?—Not one; and I do not believe there is much trespassing on the crown lands in the district of St. Joseph's.

314. Pray what is the amount of the population in the two districts under your charge?—I cannot say, and I do not believe that any census has been published since I have acted as stipendiary magistrate.

315. Has nothing then been done under the ordinance of November, 1839, in which returns of the population are directed to be made annually to the stipendiary magistrate?—The returns which were made to me in December, 1839, and November, 1840, I remitted, as directed by the ordinance, to the Commissary of Population, and have not heard of them since.

316. Do you not know then from those returns the amount of the population in your districts?—I forwarded them immediately to the commissary of population. But I am convinced that those returns did not give a true statement of the actual population; as the planters only returned the labourers settled upon their estates, when probably double that number were working with them in a precarious and occasional way.

317. Can you then form no guess of the population in the two districts?—I cannot; particularly in that of Tacarigua, where so many immigrants have lately established themselves.

318. How many police stations are there?—Four. One in the town of St. Joseph's, one in the valley of Santa Cruz, the third in Arouca, and the fourth in the village of Arima.

319. How often do you hold your courts at these stations?—On Mondays and Fridays at St. Joseph's, on Tuesdays in the valley of Santa Cruz, on Wednesday in Arouca, and on Thursday at Arima.

320. Are the causes brought before you numerous?—The petty civil actions are numerous. Some cases of assault, but rarely of a nature so serious as to require to be sent before the Court of Criminal Prosecutions, in fact only one of that description has occurred since my first appointment. I am now speaking of the district of St. Joseph's, having only been recently appointed to that of Tacarigua.

321. Do you think that this arises from the general good conduct and orderly behaviour of the labourers, or from a disinclination on the part of the inhabitants to go before the court?—In the district of St. Joseph's, I think it results from more orderly conduct amongst the labourers; immediately after my appointment they were very riotous and disorderly, and many cases of assault occurred, although not so serious as to require to be sent before the Court of Criminal Prosecutions; the culprits were heavily fined, that is, within the limits of 40 dollars, which I think has had the effect of preventing their subsequent recurrence.

322. Are you authorised to inflict both fine and imprisonment for offences?—Imprisonment only in default of payment of fine.

323. What proportion of offenders amongst the labouring population is committed to jail in default of means of payment?—Not one in ten.

324. Are the cases of petty theft brought before you numerous?—None are brought before me,

because our jails furnish no proper accommodation for prisoners before trial; and these cases are all sent for trial to Port of Spain before the Court of Criminal Prosecutions.

325. In all cases then of petty theft, even for a bunch of plantains, in the most distant parts of your districts, are all parties, principals and witnesses, compelled to attend, in spite of rivers, floods, and expenses, in Port of Spain, before justice can be invoked or redress obtained?—Yes.

326. Are you not of opinion that this serious inconvenience must frequently deter parties from prosecuting, and that offenders go consequently unpunished?—I think it does.

327. The subjects you have mentioned as coming before you appear then only to involve cases of debt and assault, and disturbance of the peace, but under the ordinance for the enforcement of contracts of service between employers and labourers, the exclusive jurisdiction in these matters is given to your tribunal. Are these cases numerous?—They are very rare, in fact my duty in this respect has been principally confined to explaining to the labourers their duties.

328. Have you had any complaints against employers on any other score?—No suit has ever been brought in my court by a labourer against an employer. Complaints have occasionally been made to me unofficially, which after a proper representation to the proprietor were amicably settled between the parties.

329. Do you believe the proprietors possess directly or indirectly any power, influence, or means of preventing cases of injustice towards labourers from being brought before you?—I do not think they possess any;—the labourers know that they are independent, are well aware of their rights, and how they can procure redress.

330. You believe then that real solid and substantial justice and protection of their rights is afforded to all the labouring classes in the district under your charge?—I am certain of it.

331. What is the strength of your police force in the two districts?—There are six policemen at present in the St. Joseph's district with two chief constables; and in Tacarigua there are only three policemen and two constables.

332. Is this the full force allowed under the Act?—The police force in St. Joseph's should be seven policemen, and I believe the same number in Tacarigua.

333. Do you consider this force adequate to the services they have to perform?—In St. Joseph's I have hitherto found it sufficient.

334. But you are well aware that since the first establishment of this force, the condition of the labouring classes has been most prosperous; employment has existed to an unlimited extent; wages have been continually rising; and the facility and regularity with which you admit heavy fines have been paid in your court, show that the labourers are in no want of pecuniary means;—but reverse this position, and suppose a fall in wages arising from a depreciation in the value of our staple exports, do you think your police force is strong enough to repress any turbulent or riotous disposition, if it existed?—The policemen might not be sufficient, but in such case the special constables would be brought in to their aid.

335. Are the special constables sufficiently numerous, and so organized, that you could on a sudden emergency prevent a butcher's or baker's shop from being pillaged?—At the present moment I could not, but before the reverse you describe takes place, a sufficient number of special constables could be appointed to prevent any act of riot.

336. From what classes of persons are your special constables to be selected?—From tradesmen and head-men on estates.

337. And you think this class of persons could be depended upon?—I would place the greatest reliance upon them.

338. Are your policemen stout and athletic, fully competent to the duties they have to perform,—are they picked men as to their physical strength?—They are not picked men, for we are obliged to get the best we can,—the service is not popular, and the best men will not engage in it; they do not like to be ordered about.

339. Please to read the 18th, 19th, and 20th clauses in the Rural Police Act, and say whether you think your police force is fully able to perform the whole of the duties which devolve upon them under these clauses?—I do not think that these duties are very faithfully performed, as my force is not sufficient for a regular patrol of the roads, and the policemen have no inclination to perform that duty voluntarily.

340. Is it part of your official duty to make yourself generally acquainted with the proceedings and transactions between employers and labourers, beyond what may come officially before you in your courts?—I do not consider that it is.

341. You are no doubt aware that in the Island of Jamaica the stipendiary magistrates have for a long period made regular returns to the Governor respecting rates of wages, mode and amount of labour, occupation of houses and grounds, treatment of labourers by proprietors; and generally all subjects connected with the working of the free labour system. Has it been part of your duty hitherto to make similar returns to the Governor here?—Hitherto such returns have never been required of me, but I have lately been furnished with a blank form from Government-house, directing me to give answer every six months to many of the subjects you have alluded to, beginning at the 30th of this month.

342. When was this blank form first sent to you?—I received it only this morning.

343. The Committee observe that simultaneously with the appointment of the stipendiary magistrates, the commandantships of quarters were annulled; have all the duties and functions, not directly connected with the institutions of slavery, performed by those officers, since devolved upon the stipendiary magistrates?—Their powers were much more extensive than ours, and everything relating to the roads devolves now upon the road commissioners.

344. But there was one very material and necessary control given to the commandants of quarters over the very dangerous proceeding of burning off the bush upon land intended to be put into cultivation; this is certainly a necessary agricultural operation in this island, but unless performed with due caution, may be productive of the greatest mischief and incalculable loss. Are planters now obliged to obtain from you the necessary permission which in such cases they formerly procured from the commandants; and is it part of your duty to see that the traces required to be cut around the work for the protection of the neighbourhood are carefully and faithfully performed?—It forms no part of my duty under the Rural Police Act.

345. Can any person, then, at his own will and pleasure put fire to any part of his estate, without regard to the alarming risk which his neighbours, and in fact the whole country to leeward of him, incur?—I know of no ordinance to prevent him.

TRINIDAD.

346. How many jails are there in the districts under your charge?—There is one jail in St. Joseph one in Arima, and a lock-up house in Arima.

347. Are they sufficiently secure for the confinement of culprits?—I think they are.

348. Although few cases between labourers and employers are brought before you, you have no doubt good means of judging of the industry of the labouring classes?—Generally I have many opportunities of judging of the conduct and proceedings of labourers.

349. What is your opinion of their industry and modes of working as compared to labourers in Europe?—I have generally observed that labourers in Europe work from sunrise to sunset: here, with a few exceptions, field-work is over before 12 o'clock, and frequently by ten.

350. Do you ascribe this slack work to inability of exertion?—No; I ascribe it to their having earned by that time as much as they desire. They have then earned 50 cents (2s. 1d. stg.) besides half-a-pound of salt fish and an allowance of rum.

351. What is your opinion of the present practice of giving rum to the labourers, judging from the nature of the cases which came before you in the shape of assaults and batteries?—I think it a very bad practice, and the great majority of such cases which comes before me result from drunken quarrels. The mischief is increasing every day; it is now becoming more prevalent than formerly amongst the women, and if the practice is continued for two or three years longer, it will demoralize the whole labouring population; and I have observed that the vice of gambling is increasing also every day. I thought it my duty to take the advice of the Attorney-General on the subject, who informed me that I could not interfere with it in private houses, although from the nature of our climate, and construction of the houses, with all the doors and windows open, it is quite as public as in the streets. You can hear the dollars clinking, and see the parties playing as you pass along, and this occurs more frequently on the Sunday than on any other day.

352. Are you the owner of a sugar estate, or interested in any agricultural property?—I own no sugar estate and am interested in no other property.

353. Do you find that competition amongst the proprietors to procure labourers is as great as it was immediately after emancipation?—I do not think that it is in the St. Joseph's district. Some of the planters there have recently told me that they get as many labourers as they require.

354. Wages, you know, have been gradually rising throughout the colony since emancipation; have you heard whether this increased stock of labour has tended to reduce wages in the St. Joseph's district?—I have not heard that labour had sufficiently increased to reduce the high price of labour.

355. The Committee understand that you are acquainted with affairs on the adjoining continent in the republic of Venezuela, and wish to know whether any supplies of labour are received from that quarter?—Yes, to a considerable extent in crop-time; but the labourers do not remain in the colony.

356. What is the present rate of wages in that country?—In the interior very low, not exceeding five dollars a month with food; but as you approach Trinidad, wages rise and are so high as 35 to 40 cents per day (1s. 8d. stg.) on the shores of the Gulf.

357. But for what description of day's labour? Does it conclude as with us before 12 o'clock in the morning?—The labourers there generally work eight hours, which is double the time taken in performing a task here.

358. As wages, then, are so much higher, and labour so much easier with us, are you of opinion that the immigration from the Spanish Main is likely to increase?—It is increasing every year.

359. The Committee have been told that many families of Spanish labourers and Peons are now settled high up the Caroni River: are these Peons and others in similar remote places well known to the colonial authorities?—A return of all persons occupying land has been required by Government, and I presume it has been received from these parties as well as others.

Saturday, 19th June, 1841.

Port of Spain.

The Honourable W. H. BURNLEY, in the Chair.

Samuel J. Prescod, Esquire, called in and examined.

360. The Committee understand that you are a native of Barbados, and have recently arrived from that island. Have you any practical acquaintance with agricultural affairs?—I have never been directly interested in agriculture, but from my long residence in that island, I have some general idea of the state of agricultural affairs.

361. Do you know the rates of wages in Barbados for agricultural labourers?—I do.

362. At what rate were they fixed immediately after emancipation?—At two bits, or 10d. sterling per day, with house and grounds free of rent.

363. Has that rate varied since emancipation?—The planters continue to pay the same rate to those who reside on their estates, and take the benefit of the house and grounds, but other labourers not possessing these advantages receive 2s. 2d. or three bits (1s. 3d.).

364. Are there no allowances given besides, of provisions or rum?—No provisions of any kind; but what is termed "beverage," or "diversion," being a mixture of molasses and water and rum, is generally given to the labourers in the field, and particularly in wet weather.

365. You do not, then, complain of any excess in the distribution of rum to the labourers by the planters in Barbados?—No; and they consider themselves entitled by right to nothing but their wages.

366. You are no doubt aware that this injurious practice is at present exciting much attention and alarm amongst proprietors in this island. To what cause do you ascribe so marked a difference in the proceedings of the two colonies?—I have not given the subject sufficient attention to enable me to answer it satisfactorily.

367. How much time have you spent in this colony?—This is my second visit; I spent one month here last year, and have now been here a fortnight.

368. You have then had some opportunity of seeing the country, and of forming an idea of the state of our agriculture?—My knowledge has been principally derived from the planters I have met with in Naparima, San Joseph's, and Tacarigua.

369. Have you seen enough to enable you to judge of our cultivation, and the fertility of the soil?—I think I have. The fertility of the island as compared to that of Barbados is apparent to the most superficial observer; and I have collected from the observations of two intelligent labourers sent over by me this year quite sufficient to confirm my opinions on this subject.

370. Are you of opinion that the men you allude to were sufficiently well informed to enable them to form a correct judgment?—They were both head men, perfectly conversant in the cultivation and manufacture of sugar, and one of them, in consequence of his abilities, has since procured the situation of under-manager in this island.

371. What opinion has he expressed as to the comparative state of our soil and cultivation?—He has expressed the highest opinion of the fertility of the soil in this island, and says that with proper attention the sugar can be made equal to that of Barbados, and “plenty of it;” but that the cultivation and manufacturing processes are most dirty and slovenly; and this is so apparent that it struck me on my first visit, and must be evident to the most superficial observer.

372. You are then decidedly of opinion that by improved labour and improved processes, the land at present in cultivation in this island can be made to produce infinitely more than it now does, and the sugar of a superior quality?—I have no doubt of it from what I have seen, and from what I have heard from others better informed on the subject.

373. Independently, then, of the great difference in wages between Trinidad and Barbados, must not a labourer here have much greater advantages in the fertility of the soil allotted to him for his garden?—His labour ought certainly to be more productive here, but I cannot help thinking that the great quantity of land furnished to them gratuitously induces a careless and imperfect cultivation, which, in the end, is probably not so lucrative to them as in Barbados.

374. You think, then, that if they were more restricted in the quantity of land given to them, they would reap greater benefit from it?—I do, most decidedly.

375. The Committee have been given to understand that you think Barbados could spare a large proportion of her labouring population with great advantage to herself?—I am of that opinion, and think that 15 or 20,000 persons taken in families, might be advantageously spared in that island.

376. Would not the abstraction of such a number immediately raise the rates of wages?—It would have that effect, and that would be one of the benefits I should anticipate from the measure, as I consider the present rates to be inadequate to the comfortable subsistence of the labouring population, which must ultimately lead to the establishment of poor-rates, and fall heavier upon the proprietors than any probable increase in the rate of wages.

377. You do not think, then, that the value of estates would fall in Barbados, in the event of wages rising?—Possibly it might at the commencement, but the effect could only be temporary. The remaining population would then obtain full employment, would do the work of the whole, and receive the wages now paid to the whole. As regards the cost of cultivation, therefore, I do not think that it would be so increased as to affect the value of property. Besides, I understand from practical men, that a large quantity of land in Barbados, unfit for the sugar cane, is at present kept under cultivation in consequence of the low wages and high price of sugar; such land would be more beneficially employed in the raising of stock and provisions, and the labour now employed upon it transferred to the best soils.

378. Are difficulties still thrown in the way of the emigration of labourers from Barbados?—Not so many as last year; but very improper restrictions on this natural right are still continued, and, at the present moment I believe it would be impossible for them to quit the colony, however advantageous such a step might be, but for the influence and protection of persons of a higher class to assist them. The law as it exists is practically enforced with greater severity towards labourers than others; an individual of the first class may leave the island without much inquiry as to the quality of his securities, whilst I have known many labourers required to find substantial freeholders, and were consequently unable to quit the island until the 21 days required by law had expired, when the vessel in which they intended to embark had departed.

379. Do the labourers in Barbados work by the day, or by task-work?—By the day. They are desirous of task-work, but the planters will not consent to it.

380. In this island a planter considers task-work as the most advantageous proceeding, for a labourer never exerts himself unless he works on his own account. Can you explain why a planter in Barbados adopts such a different course?—When I said that task-work was not allowed, I must explain that there is always a certain quantity of work expected from a labourer, but he is not allowed to get through it as soon as he can, which I attribute to the superabundance of labourers; for if they were allowed to work as much as they pleased, there would not be sufficient employment for them, and the object of the planter is to find moderate daily employment for all who are settled upon his property.

381. If, then, a labourer has performed the amount of work expected from him early in the day, and the proprietor declines to furnish him with more, is he prevented from seeking it elsewhere?—He would not be allowed to finish his work off early. He would not be allowed to give up his work in less than nine hours, and must go on leisurely with the rest of the gang.

382. Do labourers, then, continue to work in line in the cane-fields, as was the custom in times of slavery?—The work is generally performed in the same way as it was then. Here, I am aware, a labourer works when he pleases, and is allowed to do as many tasks as he will, because you are in want of labour; whilst in Barbados it is the reverse, and the principal object of the planter there is to proportion out the employment equally to all applicants. In fact, the great grievance of the labouring population at present in Barbados is, that they are not allowed to do as much work as they can; and are compelled to take nine hours to do that which they can easily perform in five.

383. Have you had many opportunities of conversing with the Barbadian labourers who have immigrated to this island?—I have seen all who came from thence this year, and a few of those who arrived three years ago.

384. Are they satisfied with the step they have taken in coming to this colony?—Very much so. They speak very favourably of the island, and have only one objection to make, which is the deep state of the roads after a heavy rain. They all admit that their circumstances are greatly changed for the better. They make more money, and are able to save more. One man, with four children, has told me that his wife's labour alone maintained the family, and that he saved the whole of his wages, and this under the disadvantage of not having yet established their provision grounds, when the labourers generally feel satisfied that they will be able to save the greater part of their wages.

385. As they no doubt communicate these opinions to their friends in Barbados, do you think when the present obstacles to immigration are removed that many of them will be disposed to come here?—I think a great many will come; for Trinidad is decidedly more popular than Demerara. They consider this island more healthy, and the general aspect of the country more cheerful. Some of the labourers now here have been in Demerara, and gave me this opinion.

TRINIDAD.

366 Can you point out any improvement or alteration in our present system which may render our island more attractive to these labourers?—I think that if you can succeed in adopting the plan recommended by your own Agricultural Society—of paying the labourers wholly in money, and withdrawing all allowances, charging them only with a fair and reasonable rent for their cottages, and allowing them at the same time to work with whom they please—it would be equally beneficial to the labourer and the employer, and a great improvement, which could not fail to render the island greatly more attractive than at present, at least to the labouring population of Barbados.

Wednesday, 30th June, 1841.

Port of Spain.

The Honourable W. H. BURNLEY in the Chair.

Frederick Brown, Esquire, called in and examined.

387. How long have you been resident in this colony?—A constant resident since February, 1799.

388. What is your profession?—A land surveyor.

389. In the course of your business have you seen many parts of the island?—The greater part of the island.

390. Generally speaking, do you consider the land to be fertile?—Very.

391. Do you consider the hilly and mountainous parts to be fertile as well as the low lands?—Generally speaking they are so; in very few cases the reverse.

392. Where are the highest lands situate?—On the northern ridge, the highest of which is the peak of Maraccas, being 2947 feet; but this is a particular peak, the general range does not exceed 1800 feet, which is approached by a succession of lower ranges, forming valleys between all, well watered, and containing excellent land.

393. Have you made many surveys on these heights?—I have surveyed a great number of estates in the heights of the Valley of Caura, at the source of the Tacarigua river. The estate of *Periere*, which I consider to be 2000 feet high, consists of the most fertile land, producing luxuriant cocoa, with every indication, from the nature of the vegetation, of the soil all around being of the same quality. I have been upon the heights of Diego Martin, Maraval, and La Ventille, where all the land is fertile and well settled; and I am of opinion that the whole range on the northern side of the island consists of fertile land, and is capable of supporting a very large population.

394. Could sugar estates be established thereon?—Sugar-canes would grow there luxuriantly, but with the quantity of fertile land on the level plain below, no one would think of establishing a sugar estate above; but cocoa, coffee, cotton, and provisions might be raised there in abundance.

395. What other mountainous ridges are there in the island?—There is a southern and a central range, but they cannot be called mountainous, they are only high hills; good roads could be easily traced throughout, and they consist of the most fertile land.

396. Do you consider the whole island generally to be capable of profitable cultivation?—Most of it, with very trifling exceptions.

397. The Committee have been informed that the late Surveyor-General Basanta estimated that one-fifth of the island was unfit for cultivation, which materially differs from your opinion in this respect?—I have seen that statement, and rather think that his assertion of four-fifths of the island only being fit for cultivation, must have alluded to sugar cultivation, which could not be cultivated profitably on the heights, but where every other description of tropical produce could be easily raised. Mr. Basanta, although a most talented and excellent officer, was more at home in the official duties of his bureau than in the field, and had much fewer opportunities than myself of knowing practically the surface of the island. The only part of the island I am acquainted with which is worthy of the name of sterile, is a small tract commencing to the westward of Arima, and extending on the line of road to the eastern settlements. It bears, however, the most superior hardwood timber, growing thick and close, which would try the temper of the best axe. But even in this district, on the banks of the Arima and the Oropouche rivers, some of the most fertile lands and best cocoa estates in the island are to be found. I am of opinion that we have little other land which can be called sterile. We are frequently apt to apply this term, from the extreme fertility of our lands generally, to soils of inferior quality, which in other colonies would be considered good.

398. Is there much valuable timber in the colony?—An immense quantity of the best description of hardwood; the best qualities of which are to be found in the least fertile soils, as I have just stated. The muro, which grows from 80 to 100 feet high, is to be found in great abundance, besides ballata, poui, roble, with enormous cedars, and various others.

399. You say that the best timber is to be found in the least fertile parts, but is it not also to be found in the fine sugar district of the Naparimas, and in the fertile lands of the extensive valley of the Caroni and Oropouche?—Yes, it is to be found in abundance all over the island, of great size and beauty, but the hardest and most enduring are to be found, as a matter of course, in the least fertile soils, where its growth is not so rapid.

400. What is the cause of our using so much of the perishable timber of North America, when we have so much of a better quality in the island?—It arises from the want of labour and population, and probably of capital and enterprise, but I should say principally from the great expense of taking it out before roads are formed.

401. Are there any very large grants of uncultivated land existing at present in the colony?—None that are large; in fact there are very few on which there is not some cultivation; but of these a more correct statement can be had in the Surveyor-General's office.

402. There would be no difficulty, then, in making roads throughout the island, from the intervention of large tracts of uncultivated land in the hands of private individuals?—None at all; the cultivation is generally on the shores of the gulf, or closely concentrated in the settled districts; the only difficulty in making roads arises from the fertility of the soil.

or eight miles, and, with the exception of the North Naparima road, which runs along an extraordinary natural ridge, the others were badly traced originally, and have in a great degree been obliged to be changed since.

405. Has your attention ever been directed to the practicability of forming rail-roads in this Colony?—It has, and I am satisfied as a man can be who has not made the actual survey, that two main lines may be established, each of them traversing the island, and connecting the eastern and western coasts. The whole valley formed by the southern range of hills on one side, and by the Montserrat and Tamana hills to the north, which is drained by the River Ortoire to the eastward, and the streams which flow into the lagoon of Siperia on the west, including the district of the two Naparimas, and a tract of country apparently as fertile throughout, of forty miles in length, and of considerable breadth, would form one line, and might, I think, be easily traversed by a rail-road. Of the level nature of the country, with the exception of undulations generally of the same height, there can be no doubt, from the circumstance of the tide flowing up the Ortoire for a considerable distance, which is a well-ascertained fact, although I have not myself been upon the spot to vouch for it. The lagoon of Siperia runs also a considerable distance into the interior, showing the same description of land on its margin; and the head-waters of both these natural levels take their rise near each other in the centre of the island. There is also another valley of similar extent and dimensions, running parallel to it, twenty miles distance to the north, lying between the Montserrat and Tamana hills, and the northern ridge, which is drained east and west by the rivers Oropouche and Caroni. Of the facility of carrying a rail-road through the whole length of this valley there can be no doubt, as Colonel Rutherford, of the Royal Artillery, surveyed the ground in 1803 and 1804, and recommended the formation of a canal to connect the eastern and western coast in this part of the island. The whole of the plans and documents relating to this subject are to be found in the Surveyor-General's office.

406. Are you of opinion, looking to efficiency and economy, that a rail-road through both these valleys would be preferable to a canal or a Macadamised road?—Should the introduction of a sufficient labouring population in this colony ever render it necessary to open up these fertile valleys for cultivation, there can be no question as to the superiority of a rail-road over every other mode of communication. A canal would be infinitely more expensive, and could only have been suggested by Colonel Rutherford because rail-roads were then unknown. Throughout the whole of the two rail-road lines alluded to, a superabundance of durable wood could be found on the spot, which it would be necessary to fell to clear the ground. The whole of the land is vested in the Crown, with the trifling exception of an estate or two on the coast; and in the latter case the proprietor would be glad to make a gift of the land for such an object. A rail-road would be found in the end infinitely less expensive than any Macadamised road; in fact the latter would be impracticable, except with imported materials, as not a stone could be found in either valley, whilst a rail-road would require no other foreign material but the iron; and so the easiest natural levels would be followed throughout, for there would be no motive for tracing the line in any particular direction. Much of the expense incurred in making rail-roads in settled countries, where it is necessary to connect fixed given points together, would be avoided. Of the cost and expense attending the formation of ordinary roads in these soils, we have sufficient evidence before us in the Naparimas, where, as they are, and for half the year impassable for carts, they must have cost in their formation, annual repair, wear and tear of harness and carts, and murder of mules and stock, infinitely more than the most expensive rail-road; and the planters in these districts would, I am sure, gladly make the exchange to-morrow at the highest cost at which a rail-road could be estimated.

407. Looking then to the large outlay of capital which must attend the formation of a rail-road, you consider that in the end it would be a saving process?—I am fully of that opinion, for such is the fertility of the soil, that, with a sufficient population, the establishment of sugar estates would be close and concentrated on each side of the line of road, and the quantity of produce passing over it would amply repay the cost of formation and annual repairs. It would not of course be necessary to make the whole line of road at once, but in portions only of five and ten miles, and to continue it on as fast as the crown lands were sold on each side.

408. By whom and at whose expense should the rail-roads, in your opinion, be formed?—It might be done by a company, but would probably be easier effected by the government, to whom the land and timber belong. By receiving repayment of the cost in moderate instalments from the purchasers of the crown lands next adjoining it, the sales and settlements of estates would be greatly facilitated, as the planter would then have only to contend with the ordinary difficulties of a new cultivation. In fact it is impossible for the interior of these fertile alluvial districts ever to be settled advantageously and rapidly, unless a regular established body of practised road-makers are employed for that purpose, under practical and skillful superintendence, whatever the nature or description of the roads may be. They would then be well traced and well made in the first instance, and prove infinitely cheaper to the new settler; who frequently sinks under this last effort, when every other obstacle is overcome, but that of conveying his crop to the place of shipment.

409. Do you think that the existing surveys of private lands and estates, in this colony, are in general correctly made?—Generally, I think, they are. Some few made, in former days, by persons totally incapable, and no. to be depended upon.

410. Would it then be easy to ascertain the exact boundary line between private and crown lands throughout the colony?—It would be a very difficult task to do it. The work would be extremely tedious, as it could only be done in dry seasons. Every surveyor has hitherto used the needle (instead of the theodolite) in which variations are to be found ranging from the lowest to the highest, equal to 2 degrees and 30 minutes. There is then the negligence of proprietors to contend with, in omitting to fix permanent boundaries, and the evil intentions of other parties who have displaced them—altogether creating difficulties which would take much time and trouble to surmount.

411. But as it must be essentially necessary to ascertain the limits of the crown lands before they can be disposed of, which must take place whenever the uncultivated lands, now in the hands of private individuals, are fully settled and cultivated, what mode of proceeding would you recommend for this purpose?—I would recommend the parties wishing to purchase land, to point out on the plans of the quarters, which are sufficiently correct for that purpose, the piece they have selected, and then to make a survey of the same.

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413. Can you inform the committee as to the comparative expense of surveying in this and other countries?—My practical experience is limited to the colony of Trinidad; but I am satisfied, from what I have read of surveys in Canada, the United States, and Australia, that the expense of surveying here must immensely exceed what it is in those countries. Our woods are thickly grown up with under-brush and vines, and you can see but a very few yards before you. In America, I understand, that a horseman can generally ride through the woods in every direction. Here it is impossible; the country is one entire wood, and you can, with difficulty, move through it on foot, unless in frequented paths, without a cutlass to clear the way before you.

414. Surveying is then a difficult and laborious task in this country?—It is very much so, and a man must possess a very strong constitution, and be well accustomed to the climate before he can practise. No European should ever attempt it until he has been some time in the colony.

Wednesday, 7th July, 1841.

Port of Spain.

The Honourable W. H. BURNLEY, in the Chair.

The Right Rev. Dr. Smith, Bishop of Agna, and Coadjutor of the Diocese of the British and Danish Islands, called in and examined.

415. The committee have invited your lordship's attendance, being aware that your pastoral duties have afforded you the best opportunities of being well acquainted with the labouring population, both before and since the emancipation; and they first beg to know the extent of the diocese of which you are coadjutor?—The diocese comprises Trinidad, Grenada, St. Vincent's, Tobago, Barbados, St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitt's, Antigua, St. Thomas, St. John's, and Santa Cruz.

416. And all these islands you are expected to visit, from time to time, in performance of your pastoral duties?—Yes; and I have visited the whole of them, excepting Tobago, Nevis, Antigua, and St. John's, where the members of my church are very few. I have felt obliged to devote the whole of my time hitherto to the spiritual wants of large congregations of Catholics the in other islands, in compliance with the instructions of the Bishop of Olympus.

417. How long have you been employed in this diocese?—From 1828 I acted in the capacity of apostolic missionary, until my consecration as Bishop of Agna, in 1837, by grace of the holy see, and the sanction of the British Government.

418. You are then well acquainted with the state of the labouring population in the British colonies in your diocese, both before and since emancipation?—As well as may reasonably be expected from a person filling my situation in the church.

419. Be so good as to state the principal effect which emancipation appears to have had upon the moral conduct and deportment of the peasantry in the British islands.—In what I am about to state, and in any answers I may give to further questions, I beg to be understood as speaking only of the members of my own church: with respect to them, I am of opinion that emancipation has had the most favourable effects upon their general conduct and behaviour, particularly in a religious point of view; although I am sorry to say, that in some parts of Trinidad there are great deductions to be made from this favourable statement.

420. Then you do not find the improvement to be equally great in all the colonies under your jurisdiction?—Not in the same proportion: in Grenada the labouring classes are unsettled and unsteady, rising, I believe, from the temptation of high wages in this island; whilst in St. Lucia I think their improvement in industry and general moral conduct has been the greatest.

421. In what particular points did you observe this improvement?—In the first place they have exhibited the greatest anxiety to have resident clergymen and schools established amongst them, for which purpose the sum of 17,000 dollars (3,540*l.* sterling) has been subscribed by the labouring population alone, not exceeding 12,000 in number; and during six weeks that I have passed in the island, visiting nearly every estate, I did not hear a single serious complaint from any one planter against the labourers.

422. What is the rate of wages in St. Lucia?—In March last, when I left the colony, wages were at 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* sterling per day, with houses and gardens provided for the labourers, but no other allowances of any description.

423. How was a day's work fixed and regulated?—A day's work was considered to be nine to ten hours, exclusive of the time required for meals; and I was credibly informed that the labourers worked quite as well as at any time during slavery and apprenticeship.

424. Had you no complaints then respecting their vagrancy—of their quitting one estate after a short service, to work upon another, without any apparent cause?—None whatever.

425. Had you no complaints respecting drinking spirituous liquors to excess?—None whatever.

426. To what cause then do you ascribe such an extraordinary and marked difference with respect to industry, settled habits and sobriety, between the labourers of St. Lucia and Trinidad?—I think to their all speaking the same language (French), and living generally under resident proprietors, amongst whom there is more of courtesy and less competition than apparently exist amongst employers in this island, judging at least from the evidence which has been taken.

427. Have you read the evidence already taken by the committee attentively?—Yes, I have.

428. From the information you have obtained since your return to the colony, are you then of opinion that the complaints made by the planter here generally against the labourers, and more particularly as to their excessive consumption of rum, are well founded?—I fear they are; and I have been so much alarmed by the reports made to me by the clergy of my church established in the rural districts, that I felt it to be my duty to visit the estates personally, with the view of pointing out to the labouring population the evils which must occur from a perseverance in this pernicious habit, which, unless checked, I am satisfied will so demoralize and enfeeble them before ten years elapse, that they will be unable to work for their own subsistence.

429. Do you expect that your exhortations will have much effect?—I think they will; many of the labourers have pledged themselves to me not to ask for drams, and, up to the present time, I find they have kept their word. In one respect I observe a manifest improvement, as within the last few weeks 37 couples have, in consequence of my exhortations, consented to be united together in holy matrimony.

430. Do you think that the proprietors in St. Lucia are in fact as much in want of labour to keep up the cultivation of their estates as we are in Trinidad?—Having so lately arrived here, I am not

personally informed sufficiently as to the wants of this island; but in St. Lucia, I have every reason to believe that the labouring population is sufficient for the actual cultivation, having heard that several estates, formerly abandoned, have lately been brought into cultivation.

431. Has there been any large immigration into St. Lucia since emancipation?—I was told that about 1500 runaway slaves from Martinique had arrived there before, and since, that period.

432. Do you think that 1500 immigrants alone would account for the population of St. Lucia being sufficient for their actual cultivation?—No. I ascribe it to their more regular working, and the greater industry of the labourers in St. Lucia, and to the circumstance that great numbers of the free people settled there, who formerly refused to work in the field, have, since emancipation, undertaken that description of labour.

433. Are you not then of opinion that this sufficiency of labourers in St. Lucia may have been the chief cause of the want of competition for their services in that island, by which the gratuitous distribution of provisions, rum, &c., has been avoided, wages kept at a reasonable level, and the industry and sobriety of the population secured?—I beg, in reply, to refer to my answer to a former question (426); and to show the extent to which this feeling of courtesy keeps down competition in St. Lucia, I was assured that, previous to emancipation, the runaway slaves from Martinique were rarely employed by the planters, lest it should prove offensive to their friends in that island.

434. To what cause do you ascribe the less vagrant habits of the labouring population of St. Lucia, as compared to that of Trinidad?—To the circumstance of there being fewer immigrants; and to the population of the estates consisting generally of the same families who were resident upon them prior to emancipation, who continue to cultivate their provision grounds, and keep them in good order.

435. Are provisions and vegetables more abundant in St. Lucia than in Trinidad?—I can only say that I was told in St. Lucia that they expected to raise a crop more than sufficient for their own consumption, with a considerable surplus for exportation—whilst here it appears, from the evidence taken, that we depend largely upon imported supplies from the Spanish main.

436. How many clergymen belonging to your church are employed in this island?—A bishop, a coadjutor bishop, and 16 clergymen.

437. To what districts are they appointed?—The two bishops and four clergymen reside in Port of Spain. One clergyman in St. Juan's, one in St. Joseph's, one in Arima, one in Carenage, one in Toco, one in Mayaro, one in Couva, one in San Fernando, one in Savanna Grande, one in Oropouche, one in La Brea, and one at Cedros.

438. Have you churches in each of the districts you have named?—There are churches or chapels in all except Mayaro, where a church is now building; and at La Brea, I believe there is a large dwelling-house occupied in a temporary way as a place of divine worship. In Port of Spain the Cathedral is a noble edifice, in aid of which a chapel has been lately erected in the upper part of the town, and two other chapels are now building in the rural parts of this parish. In the principal towns of St. Juan's and St. Joseph's large and handsome churches were built some years ago, and another church, on a very extensive scale, is now erecting in the town of San Fernando. The church of Arima was built many years ago: it is large and commodious.

439. By whom is your clergy paid?—By the Colonial Government, except the coadjutor bishop, who gave up his salary in 1838 in favour of an additional clergyman appointed to Port of Spain, which the great increase in the population rendered necessary.

440. You find then that the population of Port of Spain and the vicinity has largely increased?—Very considerably, judging from the number of baptisms, which afford, I consider, very correct data. In 1833 the number of baptisms in the parish, which, in the settled parts, embraces a radius of about six miles, amounted to 430, which have been gradually increasing up to 608 in 1840, and in the first six months of the present year amount to 386, or 772 for the year; making a difference of 342 on the last 8 years, or an accession of 80 per cent. to the population.

441. Have you found any difficulty in providing religious and educational accommodation for this increased population?—With respect to the religious service, I have already stated that I was obliged to give up my own salary to provide an additional clergyman in 1838, and I still require another, in consequence of the increasing population since that period. In saying this, I feel bound to state that the assistance granted by the colonial government has been most liberal; and I have reason to hope that the Honourable Board of Council will, on due representation of the case, provide suitably for this increased population.

442. Have you schools established in all the twelve rural parishes?—Generally; but we are much pressed for want of sufficient funds to maintain and extend them.

443. Do the parents of the children then not pay for their education?—In some cases partially, and in others not at all. At present the clergy and myself are waiting patiently, and with confidence, for the development of the comprehensive system of education recommended by his Excellency the Governor to the home government for adoption.

444. Are you aware of the existence of any labouring population in any part of the world who are so well able to pay for the education of their children as the peasantry of Trinidad?—Decidedly not.

445. Would it not then be more advantageous in every moral point of view to inculcate upon them the necessity of educating their offspring at their own expense, rather than waste their means in extravagant luxuries?—Certainly, and so far as we are able, we are acting upon that opinion; but we find the greatest reluctance on the part of most of the parents to incur this expense. The difficulty is however decreasing, and I am in hopes will be ultimately surmounted. Whilst on the subject of education, I beg to add that I am pleased to find that the English language is every day becoming more prevalent; when I arrived in 1828 few of the children of the lower classes spoke English—almost all speak English now, and it is the language taught in all the schools under the superintendence of the clergy and myself.

446. From your observations or inquiries, do you think that the immigrants who have arrived in this colony are more moral or better behaved than our native labourers?—From my own observations, and from what I have heard from gentlemen of the highest respectability, I am decidedly not of that opinion, but give the preference to the natives of the island.

447. Of the number of liberated African which were sent by government to this colony five or six years since, amounting to about one thousand, have you any in your congregation?—By referring to the register of baptisms, I find that 274 adults were baptized in the town parish.

448. From your knowledge of them, are you of opinion that any evil or inconvenience would arise from the introduction of a large number of them into the colony, to the extent of five to ten thousand

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annually?—Decidedly not, if the council of government continue to act as liberally as they have hitherto done in affording us aid and assistance.

449. You may have observed by the evidence taken, that a Mahometan place of worship has been established in the Eastern settlements of disbanded soldiers: would you not fear its extension if a considerable population were to arrive from Africa?—Decidedly not; I am sure that if a Catholic clergyman were in their immediate vicinity, they would cease to practise Mahometan rites.

450. Why then have you not a clergyman in the Eastern settlements?—Because the population is so small and scattered, that I could not hope to obtain a salary for his support.

451. Are there not many other parts of the Island needing the services of a clergyman, where, from the paucity of the population, the same want of religious instruction exists?—Yes, there are many.

452. The introduction, then, of an increased population would afford additional facilities to the moral improvement and religious instruction of the inhabitants now resident in the colony?—I think it would be of the greatest advantage to them, both in a spiritual and social point of view. Independently of religious establishments, which could then be supported in places now deprived of them, Benefit societies, which are found highly advantageous in the populous districts, could be extended. I have twenty now established amongst the different trades and labourers, comprising 2800 members, most of whom are heads of families, who pay from 5*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* sterling per month, amounting, in the aggregate, to 1750*l.* per annum, from which fund they receive, when sick, subsistence, medicine, and occasional medical attendance; and funeral expenses in case of death. These societies could then be extended to places now deprived of them, solely from the want of a sufficient population.

453. As it is a matter of the highest importance to humanity and Christianity to put down the slave trade now existing, by every possible means, and as its continuance is partly ascribed to the superior fertility of the colonies of Cuba and Porto Rico, the committee wish to know whether you have visited either of those islands and can give any information with respect to the nature of their soil as compared with that of Trinidad?—I have never visited Cuba, but have passed four months in Porto Rico. I do not profess to be able to judge as correctly of the comparative value of soils as an agriculturist, but feeling a great interest in this question, I have made particular inquiries of persons fully competent to judge from their agricultural knowledge and residence in both islands, and from every information I have received, I feel assured that no part of Porto Rico is equal in fertility to the best sugar soils in Trinidad.

Wednesday, 14th July, 1841.

Port of Spain.

The Honourable W. H. BURNLEY, in the Chair.

Frederick Brown, Esquire, again called in and examined.

454. The committee understand that you wish to amend some part of your late evidence—in what particular do you wish to make a change?—In re-perusing it, it would appear from one of my answers as if I had never been upon the river Ortoire; I meant only to state that I had never been at the highest point to which the tide water flows, but I have made surveys in other parts and lower down nearer the mouth of the river.

Lewis Pantin, Esquire, called in and examined.

455. How long have you resided in this colony?—Twenty-four years.

456. In what capacity or profession?—I have served twenty-one years as a public officer in the several departments of examiner of invoices and public accounts, and Colonial Secretary; and I have been a proprietor of a sugar-estate since 1818, in the quarter of Point-à-Pierre, where I own now two properties.

457. Can you give any information with respect to squatters, who, the committee understand, are in great numbers in that neighbourhood?—I can:—there is a large establishment of them, I should think as many as 500, at a place called Gasparee, upon lands partly belonging to an abandoned occupancy known by the name of Tarietons, and the remainder on crown lands immediately adjoining. There is another growing settlement two miles further off, and in the immediate vicinity of my estate of *Bon Aventure*, amounting already to about 50 or 60, and numerous detached settlers of the same description are scattered on the intermediate crown lands, on the line of road leading from *Concorde* to *Bon Aventure*. And many of the labourers employed upon both those estates have left the houses they occupied thereon, and have established their houses and grounds upon the crown lands in the neighbourhood.

458. Do the crown lands then bound those two estates?—Not the *Concorde*; but they are within ten minutes walk of it. The *Bon Aventure* is surrounded by crown lands.

459. What distance is the *Bon Aventure* from the shipping place?—Three miles.

460. Are there any estates to the eastward in the interior?—None.

461. Have you ever denounced any of these squatters to the Road Commissioners, who are appointed to act as the deputies of the Surveyor General?—I never have, and for this simple reason: the cultivation of my two estates depends entirely upon the labourers around me. I know that the greater part of my labourers on the *Bon Aventure* have their gardens on the crown lands. If I were to make myself a marked man by taking active steps to eject them, I should inevitably be ruined. They do not depend upon me for employment; they can find it any day they please, on any other estate in the island: but I am entirely dependent upon them for labour, and cannot risk rendering myself unpopular.

462. In what class are the persons appointed to act as road commissioners in your district?—They are either proprietors or managers of estates.

463. Must not the same personal interest then, which governs you, influence their proceedings, and in a great degree disqualify them from acting as efficient substitutes for the Surveyor General?—I am convinced that they are actuated by the same feelings as myself.

464. Do you think that these unauthorized settlers are fully aware of the illegality of their proceedings?—I can only say that I have invariably told them so. Not long ago some of my labourers observing me buying coffee, asked me why I did not weed and clean a small plantation of coffee on crown land in the neighbourhood. I took advantage of the opportunity to state that I did not dare to touch it, being assured that the Crown would take possession the moment after I had expended

money and labour upon it. But my caution had apparently no effect, for the settlements are increasing, and they naturally think that what has been permitted so long cannot be contrary to law.

465. How long is it since the first squatters settled themselves in that neighbourhood?—A few of them probably above twenty years, and I believe with the permission of the then commandant; for in time of slavery the government encouraged free settlers, and every officer under it was naturally disposed to do the same.

466. Have many have become squatters since emancipation?—The great majority of them.

467. Do they generally continue to work as day labourers upon the adjoining estates?—Those near *Bon Aventure* do so irregularly, but much more steadily than the settlers at Gasperee, who do little or no labour upon estates unless they are in immediate want of money for some particular purpose, or of rum, which they carry up to the settlement and sell to their comrades.

478. Are they principally persons who have acquired their freedom in this island, or immigrants?—I can safely say there is not an individual amongst them from the other British Islands.

469. Are they generally orderly and well behaved?—I think they are.

470. Are they injurious to the district in any other way than working so little as labourers?—They have been denuding the crown lands of their best timber for years past, which their vicinity to the river Guaracare enables them very easily to do.

471. Can you personally vouch for this?—I know it to be a fact. The public road to the shipping place passes through my estate, and I see it continually passing in large quantities. I can safely say that within the last ten or twelve years they have cleared every stick of valuable wood from at least 150 quarrees (480 acres) of land.

472. Do you think the government has been made aware of this circumstance?—Repeated representations have been made; but it is only within the last month that any steps have been taken to check it, when one day, a large quantity was seized at the shipping place of the *Concorde*, the half of which was stolen away on the ensuing night.

473. By whom?—I presume by the parties who cut it.

474. Do you think there are any squatters on the crown lands in the interior?—I should say decidedly not; they prefer placing themselves in the neighbourhood of the cultivated districts: at least I have never heard of any being elsewhere.

475. Are you well acquainted with the range of the Montserrat hills immediately behind your estates?—I am: I have visited them in various directions to the summit of the highest.

476. What is the general appearance of the land and soil throughout?—They are of moderate ascent, and a cart-road might be easily traced to their summit. The soil is of the first description of black mould and of great depth—deeper I should say than any I have seen in the island.

477. Have many estates been established on these hills?—I know only of two on the ascent; for notwithstanding the superiority of the soil, the labour and expense required to make a road has deterred settlers from attempting it.

478. How long did you act as colonial secretary?—From 1835 to 1838.

479. Do you recollect this Circular Despatch from the Colonial Office of the 30th January, 1836, being received by the governor, Sir George Hill—(the same being handed to the witness)?—I do.

480. Pray what was done by the governor in consequence?—The despatch was published in the *Gazette* by his order, and instructions were issued to the magistrates to make a return of the names of all parties who might be found squatting upon the crown lands.

481. It appears that in this despatch the principles of the Wakefield system, as to the disposal of the crown lands, are distinctly referred to, and the governor is requested to take the matter into his earliest consideration, and to submit to the colonial minister the arrangements he might recommend as best calculated to carry into effect in this colony the views of government. Did the governor immediately follow these instructions?—I do not think that he made any communication on the subject.

482. Within your recollection did he make any inquiry, or consult with any members of the legislative council, or other individuals, as to what should be the minimum price of crown lands within this colony?—I have no recollection that he ever did.

483. Did he never consult with any of the planters, and yourself amongst the number, or in your capacity of member of the Executive Council, in consequence of the instructions distinctly given in this circular, to ascertain whether the holders of uncultivated lands would be disposed to make a cession of them, which at that time might have been effected at a very trifling expense, and the great majority of the evils we are now suffering under in consequence of a limited population avoided?—I do not believe he consulted anybody on the subject, and can decidedly say he never consulted me.

484. You think then that he did nothing but publish the circular, and call for a return of the squatters?—Nothing more.

Thursday, 15th July, 1841.

Port of Spain.

The Honourable W. H. BURNLEY, in the Chair.

Horatio N. Huggins, Esquire, called in and examined.

485. How long have you resided in the Colony of Trinidad?—Twenty-one years.

496. What is your profession?—A planter; I am sole proprietor of the *Bronte* Estate, and own one-half of the *Union Hall* and *Nassau* Estates, in the district of Naparima.

487. Have you not lately turned your attention to the formation of a public village on one of your estates?—I have, in consequence of application from several individuals to purchase lots of land on the *Nassau* Estate, and about a fortnight ago put up several lots at public sale to ascertain their value; I have sold sixteen, and shall now proceed to sell the remainder by private sale.

488. What is the size of these lots, and at what price were they sold?—Twelve lots fronting on the public road, 50 feet by 100 deep, sold at an average of 116 dollars (24*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*) each, and the lots immediately behind them, 70 feet by 100, sold at 110 dollars, (22*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*) each.

489. Is that lot above 1000 dollars (208*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) per acre?—Yes, it is.

490. Is there, then, such a scarcity of land in South Naparima, that it should command so high a price?—Not at all. I should be glad to sell the spare lands on the *Bronte* Estate, which are only removed five miles higher up, at 30 dollars (6*l.* 5*s.*) per acre. But the labourers have abundance of

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money, and prefer paying this price for the situation. It is close to the shipping place, from whence they have easy communication by water, with the seat of government, and adjoining four cross roads leading to the north and south quarters, and the town of San Fernando, constituting a considerable thoroughfare, where they will always have abundance of news and company. Some of the purchasers were lately resident as labourers on the *Jordan Hill* Estate, immediately adjoining the *Bronte* lands; yet they prefer coming down and paying an extra price at the village.

491. Do you think they were winted in land, for their gardens at *Jordan Hill*, which might have influenced their removal?—On the contrary, it is an estate on which the labourers are amply supplied with land; it is well known as being more abundantly stocked with provisions than any other in the quarter; and it is partly with the money they have made out of these grounds, where they were rent free, that they have purchased the village lots. The difference in the situation is the sole cause of the difference in price. Fifteen months ago, before I had determined upon selling any of the *Nassau* lands, two of my own labourers purchased lots of Mr. Duncan Campbell, near the town of St. Fernando, for which they paid at the rate of nearly 2000 dollars (416*l.* sterling) per acre.

492. Are you not one of the Road Commissioners in South Naparima?—I am.

493. Do you find any difficulty in keeping your roads in repair?—The greatest.

494. From what cause?—Partially from defects in the road Ordinance, which prevents the assessments from being received in due time, so that the proper season for repairs has elapsed before the money is collected to pay for them; and, in the next place, the extravagant wages demanded by labourers for working on the public road, where they expect to make from two and a half to three dollars (12*s.* 6*d.* stg.) a-day; and which I have every reason to believe, they do make.

495. But is it possible to keep up this rate of wages on the roads, when labourers on estates make only one dollar (4*s.* 2*d.* sterling) per day: will not competition amongst them equalize the rates?—The road work is altogether performed by the American immigrants, who contract for it, not by the day, but by the hundred feet. Either our labourers are not intelligent enough to make the necessary calculations, or they dislike the continuous and steady hard work which it requires. But the chief difficulty in keeping the roads in order arises from the nature of the soil, which is deep and stiff, and so tenacious, that it will occasionally pull off a horse's shoe when at all loose in passing through it.

496. How is it possible to pass over a road of this description with a loaded cart?—In the dry season, when the surface has been properly smoothed, and not allowed to cake hard in ruts and deep holes, it makes one of the finest roads possible, as it does not easily pulverize by friction; but then our seasons are so precarious, that the rains sometimes commence before the crop is over, and most frequently, before a large portion is conveyed to the shipping place; and it is not uncommon to have a large portion of it embargoed upon the estate until the next year.

497. As a planter, do you think it would be a saving to you to pay a high price for a railway over such roads?—I think the saving it would create would enable an estate to pay interest upon ten thousand dollars advantageously, instead of continuing the present system, where every expense incurred must be repeated annually. But it is impossible to calculate all the expense and loss incurred at present. The greater part of the crop must always be carted to the shipping place, before it is sufficiently drained of the molasses, lest the sudden setting in of the rain should prevent it, by which a considerable loss of molasses is incurred; should the rain fall, it must then be put in bags on the backs of mules, and the empty hogsheads filled at the shipping place, which is a most expensive and troublesome process. Frequently, as I have stated, it has been arrested upon the estate altogether, the roads becoming too deep for the last process. In this case, it deteriorates much in quality and in quantity, from the dampness of the weather, before the next shipping season arrives. Last year a great quantity of sugar was locked up by the bad weather on every estate on the road; fourteen hogsheads which I had at *Bronte* were reduced to ten when finally shipped. There must have been eighty locked up at *Jordan Hill*, which is nearer the shipping place, and upon every hogshead so detained there must have been an additional loss of at least 10*l.* sterling, from the intermediate fall in the market. Besides which, no stores or supplies can, in such seasons, be got up to the estates, and the fish required for the subsistence of the negroes has to be carried up on their heads.

498. Are there no materials in the neighbourhood, to give a solid surface to the roads?—None nearer than the St. Fernando hill; and that is not stone, but a kind of marly gravel, and being a mile distant from the south quarter, the expense of carriage is so great, that it has been used in no direction above a mile in length; it would be cheaper to make a rail-road than to convey it much further.

499. What profit do you expect upon your sugar crop this year at *Union Hall*?—In consequence of the high wages and state of the sugar market, I fear, from the last calculation made, that there will be a loss of at least 1000*l.* sterling, upon the present crop.

500. Why do you continue the cultivation under such circumstances? would it not be better to stop one year, which might tend to reduce the rate of wages?—If I were to stop, the labourers now resident upon my estate would repair to others, when the proprietors would be so glad to receive them, that I could never expect them to return again. Besides an estate here, if allowed to run out of cultivation, would take, even with a large command of labour, two years at least to replace it in its former condition, and the expense of doing it would be some thousand pounds sterling. Looking therefore always for an improvement in the industry and behaviour of the people, from increased immigration, I think it more prudent to go on at present, even at a heavy loss.

David Lockhart, Esquire, called in and examined.

501. What is your calling or profession?—I am at the head of the Botanical Garden, to which I was appointed by his Excellency Sir Ralph Woodford, in 1818, immediately after my return from the expedition up the Congo or Zaire river in Africa, to which I was attached as assistant botanist and gardener.

502. Have you been in any other parts of the world?—Yes, I have been in the province of Venezuela on the Spanish Main, in Cuba, Jamaica, the Bermudas, and most of the Windward Islands.

503. From your great experience in soils and vegetable productions, pray state your opinion as to the soils in the different places you have named, comparing them with that of Trinidad.—Bermuda is a barren rock. The soil of the Windward Islands is greatly inferior to ours, and so is Venezuela, in the neighbourhood of Caraccas, and the valley of Aragua. The only place which can bear any comparison is Cuba; but altogether I have seen nothing equal to Trinidad in the great variety and

excellence of the soils ; and particularly in its seasons, which, from its situation, exempts it from the droughts to which all the other islands, from Barbados to Cuba, must be occasionally subject,

504. But as compared to the land you saw in Africa?—A large proportion of what I saw there was a very poor light sandy soil. It only began to improve where the expedition stopped, about 250 miles up the river ; but even there it was in no respect to be compared with the quality of the soil in this island.

505. How far do you find this island adapted for the growth of the spices of the East?—I have never been in the East ; but all the experiments I have made here have been extremely successful. Nutmegs and cloves answer perfectly well. I have in the garden about 100 mature nutmeg trees, and have taken, during this season, above 20 pounds from one tree. Several officers of rank, both in the army and navy, who have been in the East, have assured me that they are equal to any they had seen there, and quite as productive. Some time ago I forwarded a sample to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts and Manufactures in London, which was sent to the Inspector of East India spices for examination, who reported upon them so favourably, that the Society awarded me a large gold medal, which has unfortunately been since stolen from me by thieves in this island. An equally favourable report has been made upon the cloves, and both of them could be grown here in any quantity.

506. Have you not a large number of young plants, of both descriptions, always on hand for distribution?—A great number.

507. Have you had many applicants for them?—Not for many years past ; and of those distributed at an early period, the greater part have perished from neglect.

508. To what do you ascribe this circumstance?—To the paucity of population. The planters are always employed in making sugar by wholesale, and there is no cottage population as yet, by which a cultivation of this description could be economically attended to.

509. Have you not plants of the Mocha coffee, in the garden?—Thousands of them.

510. Do they differ much in growth and appearance from the West India Coffee?—Yes, there is some difference in the foliage, and the grain of the fruit is much smaller ; but it yields very abundantly.

511. Do you think our soil well adapted for it?—The whole range of mountains to the north would suit it well, and the summits probably the best.

512. Have you been upon the loftiest summits?—Yes, I have been upon the highest parts.

513. Is not the range well wooded throughout?—A thicket of wood from top to bottom ; the ascent is covered with palms and forest trees in many places, from 80 to 100 feet high, before you come to a branch.

514. There is then an abundance of good timber in the island?—An abundance of the best description of hard wood timber covers the whole northern range.

515. Generally speaking, would you call the surface of the island, level and flat?—Very much so ; more so than any island I have ever visited. I should say that the low lands and valleys amount to three-fourths of the whole island.

516. Is much of it swampy?—Not much that I have seen, but a great part of the interior of the island must be unknown. Wherever I have been I have found the land of the first quality, and densely covered with the best timber.

517. Had you many opportunities of seeing the natives when up the Congo river in Africa?—Yes, I was nearly three months amongst them.

518. Did it appear a populous country, and were the inhabitants free or slaves?—In the interior it seemed populous, and they were apparently free. The chiefs were attended by domestic slaves, but the rural population I believe were free.

519. What cultivation did they follow?—Provisions entirely ; but they seemed indolent, apparently doing little ; which may have been owing to the want of a market for their produce.

520. Were they stout and active?—Very much so ; a fine looking set of people.

521. Did they seem well-disposed and ready to sell you provisions?—They seemed a cheerful, good-natured set, and readily furnished us with goats, pigs and poultry, and every kind of native vegetables, of which there was an abundance.

522. Did you pay them in money?—No, in umbrellas, handkerchiefs, blankets, knives, razors, beads, and a great variety of wares with which I am little acquainted.

523. What apparently was their form of government and state of civilization?—They all seemed nearly in a savage state. They were kept in awe by the Fetish, who governed in each village, which was composed of a number of moveable huts, made to be carried off at a moment's warning ; and as to dress, they were all but naked.

524. Do you not think it would be advantageous to transfer a few thousands of them to this island?—Not a doubt of it ; they seem a fine cheerful race, and with a little pains, I believe could be easily civilized ; but where they are, they are never likely to do any good for themselves or others.

525. Did you find the slave-trade carried on so high up the river?—To a great extent. There was a Portuguese factory below, about 60 miles from the mouth of the river, to which the slaves were sent from the interior.

526. Although, then, there were few slaves in the population around you, many were brought down from the interior?—I believe a great many ; we met them travelling in gangs of 10, 15, and 20 each, as the falls in the river above prevented their coming by water.

527. Did the free rural population around you seem to be indignant or angry at seeing their countrymen carried away to be sold as slaves?—They seemed perfectly indifferent about it, as if it were a matter of every-day occurrence. Even the slaves themselves did not seem to care much.

528. Did they appear to have suffered much by their conveyance from the interior?—Very little. They seemed generally in good health.

Friday, 16th July, 1841.

Port of Spain.

The Honourable W. H. BURNLEY, in the Chair.

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530. What office do you fill under the government?—I am commissary of population and surveyor-general.

531. Can you state the quantity of granted and ungranted lands, and the amount in cultivation in the island?—Yes, I have brought a statement with me, taken from the latest return in my office.

(The witness here presented the following statement.)

180 Sugar Estates, of which 104 have Distilleries.

21,710 acres planted in Canes.

6,910 " " Cocoa.

1,095 " " Coffee.

6,313 " " Provisions.

7,237 " " Pasture.

43,265 Total in Cultivation.

208,379 Acres granted in the Colony.

1,079,301 " Ungranted.

1,287,680 Total Acres according to Capt. Columbine.

1,536,000 " " according to Mallet.

532. The committee observe two statements of the quantity of land contained in the colony differing from each other; which do you consider to be the most correct?—I think Captian Columbine's statement of 1,287,680 acres is the most correct.

533. Of this quantity, it appears that 1,079,301 acres are still in possession of the Crown, and that 208,379 acres have been granted to individuals. Were any of these grants made in large parcels?—Very few of the grants exceed 5 or 600 acres—the greater number are of 100 quarrées or 320 acres. The largest grant is that of *Orange Grove*, in Tacarigua, which consists of about 2,600 acres.

534. Are the grants scattered throughout the island in different parts?—Principally along the margin of the gulph—on the line of the Caroni River, north and south of it, and to the eastward under the northern range of hills, where the nature of the soil rendered a road more practicable. The only closely settled district is in the two Naparimas, where a rich vein of sugar soil commences. The great body of the interior of the island, and the greatest part of the northern, eastern, and southern coasts, are yet ungranted.

535. The committee observe that only 6,313 acres are planted in provisions. How many individuals do you think an acre of ordinary land will support in this colony?—It is not easy to determine how many it might support. There are numerous small settlements of one quarrée each (3 acres and 1-5th), which have greatly increased since emancipation, and are every day increasing, upon which I have observed in many instances above 30 persons located, which would give near 10 persons to an acre; but their husbandry is so slovenly and bad, that I believe the land would easily produce twice the quantity of provisions they obtain from it; but at present we import a great quantity of ground provisions from the Spanish Main.

536. Is there much uncultivated land in the neighbourhood of Port of Spain (*the seat of Government*?)—An immense quantity; there are large tracts in the valleys of Diego Martin, Maraval, and St. Ann's, at the Carenage, La Ventille, and on the hills all round, the whole of which is well adapted for coffee and provisions of every description.

537. There is then no want of land on which small settlers can establish themselves by purchase?—Not the least want, and they are settling every where rapidly. I really believe they settle nearly as fast as immigrants arrive. It is my opinion that few will remain above a year working as labourers whilst wages remain so high.

538. Can you furnish a statement of the population of the island at different periods since its cession at the Peace of Amiens?—I have it not with me, but I will send it in to the Committee.

539. When was the last census taken?—The last which can be called a census was in 1838; the returns in 1839 and 1840 were so defective, that it was found impracticable to make up a general census from them.

540. To what cause do you ascribe these inaccuracies in the returns?—The great difficulty I believe to have arisen from the present wandering disposition of the labourers, by which the population is found to be so shifting, that it is impossible to number them accurately; this was alleged to be the cause by the parties employed to make up the returns, and from my own observations I believe it to be correct.

541. Is there any great difference in the proportion of the two sexes in the colony?—The returns will show the difference, but I know there is a majority of females. I observe here amongst my papers a stray return of the population of Port of Spain for 1838, where, out of the aggregate number of 11,698, there appear to be 4,912 males and 6,716 females.

542. Do you believe that a similar difference exists throughout the colony?—Not to that amount, but the females preponderate.

543. In your department, have you had access to the surveys made by Colonel Rutherford, of the engineers, when acting here as surveyor-general in 1803 and 1804?—Yes, I have.

544. What was his principal work?—The taking of the levels between the Caroni and Oropouche rivers, for the purpose of forming a canal to make a line of communication between the eastern and western coasts.

545. What was the result of the survey?—That the communication by canal could be easily made.

546. Did he take levels in any other parts of the island?—I believe no where else.

547. Was any estimate made of the expense of forming the canal?—I believe none. There is none in the office.

548. Have the levels between the Lagoon of Siperia and the river Ortoire ever been taken?—

551. Is the island well wooded throughout?—Covered with lofty timber throughout, excepting only where settlers have cleared it away.

552. And this generally of a good and useful quality?—Of the best, but most frequently wasted by the settlers from inability to carry it to a market. Often have I known the Ballata trees to be cut down merely for the fruit, which it was otherwise difficult to get at from their height and straitness.

553. Have you turned your attention at all to the practicability of making railroads in this island?—Very little. I have not been in England since railroads were established; but as levels could be easily traced, I should not apprehend any difficulty here but want of labour and capital.

554. If a good railroad were made into the interior, would there be any want of the best timber for shipment?—There would be abundance of it.

555. Are you not conservator of the crown lands?—Yes, as surveyor-general.

556. From the returns in your office, do there appear to be many intruders on the crown lands at present?—Not in my office, but I know that returns have been made, and are making to Government.

557. Have you not reason to think that there are numbers of squatters in various parts of the island?—I have heard many persons complaining to that effect, and I believe it to be the case.

558. Were you not a corregidor of the Indians for many years?—Yes, I was corregidor for seven or eight years of the Indian mission at Arima, which was originally founded by my father, and of which he was corregidor from before the cession of the island until his death in 1815.

559. Do they not hold a tract of land set apart for their own use?—Yes, a tract of about one thousand acres, granted to them by the king of Spain, to which Sir Ralph Woodford added afterwards 320 acres, in consequence of their complaining of a want of provision grounds.

560. What has been the average number of Indians in that mission?—They never exceeded six hundred, and have now fallen off to less than half that number.

561. Have they not always met with the most liberal treatment from the Colonial Government, and have laboured only for their own benefit?—Always; they were even exempted from taxes paid by other free classes in the community, and had medical attendance furnished to them gratis.

562. To what then do you ascribe the gradual and rapid diminution in their number?—Chiefly to the gradual mixture of the races. As pure Indians they were compelled to remain at the mission, and conform to the regulations; but the children born of Spanish and Creole fathers, could not be so classed, and would not submit to the restraint of remaining there.

563. Is the mission then broken up?—Virtually it is so. No regulations are now enforced, and those who remain there follow orders, because they have the benefit of the crops of cocoa belonging to the mission.

564. As they appear to have emancipated themselves from the regulations of the mission, do you think they have any legal claim to either the cocoa or the land at present?—I should think not; but it is a legal question which I am not competent to answer.

The following Population Returns for the Colony of Trinidad was subsequently received by the Committee :—

Year	1797	17,718	After the capture of the Island.	
	1802	28,477	After the Cession.	
	1806	30,043		
	1809	32,095	After the abolition of the Slave-trade.	
	1819	39,935		
	1824	41,120	After which year the transfer of slaves from one British colony to another was prohibited.	
			MALES.	FEMALES.
	1829	41,020	—	—
	1831	39,482	19,565	19,917
	1832	40,250	19,779	20,471
	1834 and 1835	39,045	19,147	19,898
	1836 and 1838	39,328	19,250	20,078

William George Knox, Esquire, called in and examined.

565. What is your profession?—An English barrister, practising at the bar of this island during the last ten years.

566. Are you interested in sugar estates in this colony?—Not personally, but in the years 1838 and 1839, I had the charge and administration of the properties of my father-in-law, M. Blazini, (during his absence in Europe,) and also at the present time.

567. Have you had any occasion to observe the state and habits of the agricultural labourers in this colony?—Yes, necessarily so, as having had charge of those properties.

568. Have you paid any attention to the injurious practice of squatting now existing?—A great deal, and have made many inquiries of persons on whose information I think I can rely.

569. Do you understand it to be extensive?—I do not think it is in the interior or in unsettled places, but principally in the vicinity of the towns and cultivated districts.

570. To what do you attribute this?—In the first place to the natural tendency of human nature to satisfy its wants with the least expenditure of money and labour: and then to the great facility with which they occupy crown lands in the places alluded to, where they find a ready and profitable market for all they raise, particularly for guinea-grass in Port of Spain and San Fernando, and have an extensive field for a profitable trade in charcoal, which is always in demand, is easily made, and brought to market, and by which the best timber in the country is destroyed and wasted.

571. Has the practice of squatting increased since emancipation, and do you think it likely to extend further?—The present practice has altogether arisen since emancipation; formerly there were one or two settlements of runaway slaves, who hid themselves in the interior, and which I believe

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now no longer exist. As to the probability of its extension, that I think will materially depend upon the wages of labour and the steps taken by Government to repress the practice.

572. What is the state of the law with regard to squatting?—We are governed by the order in council of 6th October, 1838, and the rules and forms of proceeding established by the proclamation of the 30th March, 1839.

573. Are these laws calculated to repress the evil?—I think the order in council is. It appears to me to have been carefully drawn up, with the honest intention of checking the evil, and is unobjectionable, with the exception of one of the clauses, which limits the authority of the stipendiary justice to cases where the squatter has not been in possession one year. The rule may be fair as applied to intruders upon the lands of resident proprietors, but is most injurious as applied to crown lands, because for many years past the Colonial Government has permitted, and actively encouraged, the occupation of crown lands in small patches without purchase or title. It was the practice of the Commandants to grant to free persons indiscriminately, written permissions to occupy portions of land within their districts, and many of the titles subsequently granted by the Colonial Government were founded upon an occupancy under these permissions. These permissions never expressed the locality of the land with any degree of precision, and the holders considered themselves at liberty to select any part of the crown lands within the district, which was frequently done, changing one piece for another in succession, after clearing away the valuable timber. No survey was made of any of the tracts so occupied until the parties were on the eve of applying for a formal grant; I believe there is no record in any of the public offices of the very large majority of these permissions, and I have known instances where these permissions were endorsed and passed from hand to hand by sale. For these reasons, I think the clause alluded to will give rise to the following difficulties. It will be difficult to distinguish the parties in occupation of crown lands, whether they are authorized intruders, or holding under these permissions, or claiming under the parties who originally received them; and under all circumstances the magistrate has no authority to deal with, or even search into the right of occupation of any or either of the above parties, his jurisdiction being strictly limited to the case of those who have intruded within the year. The only mode of dealing with them at present is by bringing an action in the Supreme Civil Court, in the name of the crown, which would be a process so dilatory and apparently so oppressive, that the Colonial Government would probably shrink from the obloquy of exercising it to any extent. I do not see that there could be any objection in principle to the stipendiary justice being allowed to proceed according to the ordinance, against all intruders on the crown lands, without reference to the term of occupation, by which this difficulty would be obviated. Under all circumstances it must depend entirely upon the activity of the officers of the Colonial Government, whether the order in council shall be carried into effect; for no proceeding can be taken in the case of unauthorized occupation of crown lands, but at the instance of the surveyor-general.

574. How far do you think the rules and forms of proceeding of 30th March, 1839, are calculated to promote the object for which the Order in Council was framed?—I do not think they are likely to promote that object; the rules are too stringent, and the forms multifarious, involving much delay and trouble. The first rule requires the extent and boundaries of the land encroached on, with the buildings and the nature of the cultivation on it, to be "particularly described." This could not be done without some expense and much trouble: in many cases it might require the assistance of a surveyor, and an inspection of the plans in the office of the Commissary of Population. The third rule is more stringent as to the service of the summons than the practice of the Supreme Civil Court, even in cases involving the largest properties in the colony. It is not often that the "squatters" are found to have "some servant or relation" residing upon the lands occupied by them, and I fear that in most cases it would be very difficult to comply with the requisites of the 3rd and 4th rules. The forms subjoined to the rules appear to me unnecessarily numerous and artificial; the proceedings in a single case would require much of the time and attention of the magistrate, and this labour is much increased by the 5th rule, which requires the magistrate to transmit to the governor a copy of the whole proceedings in every case, in which he grants an order for the compulsory restitution of the land. I think the addition of a seal to the signature of the magistrate to all orders, summonses, &c., quite unnecessary; the omission of it from inadvertence is not unlikely, and might be fatal to the validity of the proceedings. The seventh rule appears to me likely to lead to much difficulty; after adjudication, the unauthorized occupier is allowed 15 days in possession of the land, and upon default the magistrate may order immediate possession, but such order cannot be enforced until *after a formal service of it upon the unauthorized occupier*, who probably will not be easily found 15 days after he has been formally notified to deliver up the land, and forfeit his buildings and cultivations. Altogether the form of proceeding, instead of being "summary," appears to me to require as much time and trouble, and nearly as much professional knowledge, as the great majority of civil actions which are instituted in the Supreme Civil Court.

575. Are these defects likely to produce serious consequences?—I think these defects, together with the dread of actions for damages in the Supreme Court and the Complaint Court in case of any departure from the rigid observance of the rules and forms, are likely to prevent any proceedings before the magistrates under the Order in Council, except such as may be instituted under the direct authority of the Colonial Government by its own officers and at the public expense.

Saturday, 17th July, 1841,

Port of Spain.

[The Honorable W. H. BURNLEY, in the Chair.

John Carter, Esquire, called in and examined.

576. Have you resided any time in this colony, and in what capacity?—I arrived here in 1819, and acted as *Escribano de Camara*, or secretary of the governor's tribunal, for four years. Having paid some attention to surveying, which I took every opportunity of practising in early life, when in the navy, his Excellency Sir Ralph Woodford requested me, in 1823, to explore the country to the eastward of Chaguanas, in that part of the great plain which lies on the south side of the Caroni river; on which occasion I was six weeks in the woods occupied in that pursuit alone. In 1825 he employed me to explore the country on the eastern coast, particularly the rivers Ortoire and Nariva, and to survey the bay of Guayaguayare, which I understood he expected at that time would have been made a port of entry. He requested me also to report upon the fitness of Manzanilla bay as a safe anchorage for small vessels. After I had completed these surveys, he requested me to cross the

northern range of mountains at Arima, and proceeding eastward to Point-Galera, to report upon the nature of the country and soil on the northern coast, which I effected, returning on foot to Port of Spain through Matura and Guanapo. Shortly afterwards he engaged me to undertake the superintendence of the cocoa-nut oil manufactory established by the Board of Cebildo on the eastern coast, where I have continued to reside ever since.

577. Have you visited any other parts of the island than those you have mentioned?—I am generally acquainted with the country all around the island, having frequently taken the route of the coast in boats and small vessels in my various visits to Port of Spain, from the cocoa-nut oil establishment at Nariva; and I resided for part of the year 1823 until 1825 on an estate in the hills of Montserrat, behind Savonetta.

578. Since your arrival in town from Nariva, have you read the evidence taken before this committee?—I have.

579. From your general acquaintance with the island, do you think the railroad communications suggested by some of the witnesses are practicable?—I am decidedly of opinion that railroad communications could be made in both the valleys mentioned by Mr. Brown. The practicability of the northern line is established by Colonel Rutherford's survey; and without having traversed the whole of the southern line, I think I have seen enough to satisfy me that there is every facility for forming one in that direction. I ascended the Ortoire by water from the mouth of the junction of the Anapo, which takes its rise in the south-west, and enters the Ortoire about 18 miles from the mouth of the latter. The influence of the tide is felt up to this junction, after which the Ortoire becomes an inconsiderable stream.

580. Is it navigable up to that point?—I sounded the whole distance, and found there from 60 to 10 feet in depth, never less than the latter. Unfortunately it has a bar at the mouth, which renders it impossible for anything but boats to enter; but within the bar it will serve admirably as a canal or water communication until its junction with the Anapo, where I think the railroad should commence, and be continued from thence to the Gulf of Paria.

581. What do you consider to be the whole distance on this line?—From the sea on the eastern coast to the Ortoire at the junction of the Anapo is not more than seven miles, as the course of the Ortoire is to the S.W., and full of sinuosities; from thence to the gulf cannot be more than 25 statute miles. No part of this line until you arrive at the cultivation in South Naparima has been regularly surveyed; but from observations easy to be made, there can be no difficulty in determining that the whole must be nearly level, for instance, the course of the Anapo for five miles is very sluggish even when flooded;—along the southern coast no considerable height is to be seen intervening between Mount Tamana in the centre of the island. For in fact the whole range on the southern coast which in most of the maps is described as mountainous, is of a very moderate elevation, although broken and rugged. The only high land to the south is to the westward of Guayaguayare bay, between it and Moruga, which may be from 12 to 1,500 feet high, but a most superb soil.

582. Do you think that an abundance of good timber could be easily obtained for the formation of a road throughout this line?—In every part of it; but there is a large tract in particular on each side of the Ortoire below Anapo of probably 10 miles square called "Mural," from its being covered exclusively with the muro tree, which, of all the fine forest trees we have, appears to be the best adapted for that purpose, as I know by experience its enduring qualities in damp and moisture. From the accounts of every traveller and hunter there can be no doubt of an abundance of hard wood throughout the whole line; but the "Mural" alone would furnish more than required.

583. Is the muro tree much used in this island?—Very little, as it is scarce on the western side; but it is decidedly equal, if not superior, considering all its qualities, to any other timber we have; I think it is as enduring as Poui, whilst it greatly exceeds it in size. I measured several which had fallen from age, and found that they averaged above 70 feet in length from the spurs of the root up to the lower branches, presenting a clear run of timber of that length, and about three feet in diameter.

584. Is the ground well covered with these trees?—As close as they can grow, probably about 50 feet apart, with no undergrowth but seedlings of the same tree.

585. Is the soil good?—Extremely fine, as I know by experience.

586. Independently of the two lines of road which have been alluded to, are you aware of any other parts of the island on which a good level could be traced, passing through a rich soil favourable to sugar cultivation?—I am of opinion that railroad communications could be easily made in various directions throughout the island, with the exception only of the northern range and the hilly parts of the centre; but in preference I should select a line commencing with the valley of the Guaracare on the side of the gulf, and extending across the great plain which is bounded on the north by the Montserrat and Tamana Hills, by the Ortoire river on the south, and terminating at the eastern coast between the Manzanilla and Mayaro points. No regular survey has been taken, but from observations made from the nearest heights, the whole line, which cannot much exceed 20 miles to Savanna Grande, must be level throughout.

587. Are you of opinion that the soil would be found good throughout the whole of this line?—The quality of the west end of the line in the Guaracare valley is well known to be amongst the best. It would then run along the level of the base of the Montserrat hills, where the soil, even at their summits, is of the finest quality. The remainder of the line I believe to be rich alluvial soil. I know that for five or six miles of it from the east coast it is very superior, and have every reason to believe that the whole is the same.

588. Have you had any opportunity of ascertaining that the soil on the summit of the Montserrat hill is excellent?—I have been along the highest parts from Savonetta to within two miles of Mount Tamana, about 15 miles by the map, and the land is magnificent throughout. The soil is composed of chocolate-coloured vegetable mould mixed with sea shells. I met with a cedar-tree which had recently fallen, and in the earth which had been torn up and adhered to the roots, were numerous oyster shells, and in the hollow space which it had filled, was a large mass of the same shells. Occasionally where the masses of lime-stone obtruded beyond the soil, sea shells were found thickly imbedded in them.

589. Is there then abundance of limestone rock on these hills?—Abundance, but in separate detached masses, interfering in no way with cultivation.

590. Independently then of cultivation and building uses, it would furnish an ample supply of materials for roads?—In any quantity required, and good roads might be traced and made throughout these hills from the summit to the base.

TRINIDAD.

Monday, 19th July, 1841.

Port of Spain.

The Honourable W. H. BURNLEY, in the Chair.

Lionel Lee, Esquire, called in and examined.

591. How long have you resided in this colony?—Since the year 1808.

592. What business have you followed during that period?—I am a sugar planter. When a lad I served my time as overseer; I have been for many years subsequently a manager; and since 1827 I have had a share in the cultivation of the Orange Grove estate, in the district of Tacarigua, which is now entirely under my administration and charge.

593. You then consider yourself perfectly acquainted with agricultural affairs, and agricultural labourers in this colony?—I think I am.

594. Do the wages in your neighbourhood differ much from the statements which have been given as to other districts?—Not much, but upon the whole they are higher in Tacarigua than in Naparima, which may be owing to our lands being more flat, more affected by the rains, and consequently more subject to grass. We are paying five bits (2s. 1d. sterling,) for 5000 square feet of weeding, to the labourers who have the benefit of provision grounds on the estate, and to others six bits (2s. 6d. sterling). But this is a large task in consequence of the fineness of the season, and the grass and weeds not being so heavy: last year I paid the same for a square of 3000 feet, which from the nature of the work, required as much time to complete it.

595. Are your wages higher now than they were immediately after emancipation?—Yes, they have been higher since May, 1840, than at any preceding period.

596. Have you any hope of being able to reduce them shortly in consequence of the number of immigrants who have arrived?—It can only be done by a general combination among the planters, which is not easy to effect. I should rather recommend doing away with the gratuitous allowances of rum and fish in the first instance, and getting more steady and efficient work done for the wages now paid.

597. How many hours does a labourer take to perform his task of 5000 feet of weeding at present?—Seldom more than four.

598. Are they not frequently in the habit of performing two tasks in the day?—Hardly ever on the Orange Grove estate. A task was considered a day's work in time of apprenticeship, and they seem to think it unnecessary now to do more.

599. How do they employ their spare time?—The old-estates people work on their grounds and gardens, and the immigrants employ themselves in a variety of trades, which they practise more than our people—or in visiting, or loitering about.

600. The immigrants then do not seem disposed to cultivate the land?—Generally it is the case, but latterly I observe that several have commenced, and I think that a better disposition in that respect is beginning to show itself.

601. From what parts of the world are the immigrants on the Orange Grove estate?—From Antigua, Nevis, St. Kitt's, Grenada, with a few refugees from the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe, and liberated Africans. In all we have about 150, and the same number of old-estates people.

602. Do you find the immigrants generally unsettled and wandering in their habits?—They were so, shortly after their arrival—some still continue so, but I now hope that the major part of those I have are likely to become permanent residents.

603. How many slaves had you on the estate prior to emancipation?—About 200.

604. As you state that only about 150 of them reside upon the estate now—where is the remainder?—Some are dead, some are residing on lands they have purchased, and others have attached themselves to friends and families elsewhere.

605. How long since you have had this additional number of immigrants?—A few since 1839—they have been gradually increasing to the present number.

606. What proportion of work do the 300 persons resident upon the estate perform as compared with your former gang of slaves?—They do nearly as possible the same proportion of field-work as the 200 slaves formerly did, for the extent of the task has been diminished, and their work is so slovenly that more weeding is required. But about the works and in taking off the crop, the amount of their labour is fully one-third less, as they are never fairly at work before seven o'clock, and invariably break off at sunset; and should any showers of rain fall, the work is completely deranged. In fact there is as yet no steady and continuous work such as formerly existed in the manufacture of sugar. A few amongst them are disposed to work well, but for want of a sufficient number of steady hands to complete the spells, the whole work is deranged. This very frequently happens, and adds greatly to the expense of making a crop. It is by no means the increased amount of the wages of labour which constitute our chief expense; it is the losses arising from the irregularity, negligence, and wilful conduct of the labourers in many instances.

607. In what way does the misconduct of the labourers increase your expenses?—In many ways,—frequently three or four labourers will not make their appearance in crop time until ten o'clock, and I am compelled to pay a whole day's wages rather than incur a greater loss by refusing to take them. Some of them often leave their work abruptly after it has been commenced, from some dispute amongst themselves or other trifling cause; and from the frequent stoppage of the work by these and other causes, there is a much greater consumption of fuel in proportion to the work. This year, after crop, eight iron sugar-boilers out of ten were turned out broken, arising solely from carelessness in calling for the application of fire before a sufficient quantity of cane-juice was drawn down into them. There is great loss in the breakage of carts, and particularly in the death of stock from cruelty and ill-usage, of which I cannot give better evidence than the fact that four oxen were always sufficient for the daily service of each cane-cart in time of slavery; this number has been gradually increasing until I now find seven barely sufficient, although the day's work is much shorter. It is impossible to enumerate the whole of the various ways in which additional expenses are incurred from the carelessness of the negroes, as it pervades every work they are put to; and it can never be otherwise until they are made to feel the effects of it themselves, which at present is not the case.

608. Cannot you check many of the proceedings you have mentioned by complaining to the Stipendiary Magistrate?—I have tried it, and two labourers were fined for stopping the work at the mill by neglecting their duty, but the example had so little effect upon themselves or others that it

afforded little encouragement to repeat it, as it involved the loss of much time, and gave great trouble at a period of the crop when every moment was valuable.

609. The Ordinance of 7th September, 1838, provides for contracts of service between employers and labourers for a period not exceeding one year: are these contracts for a year ever entered into by the agricultural labourers?—Never.

610. What is the longest contract you have known entered into?—I have never heard of any exceeding a day.

611. Is there not then a single farm servant engaged even for a month to perform all the little jobs of sweeping and cleaning out-yards, emptying of cattle-pens, &c., and are all these performed by a day-labourer?—The are engaged by the day only.

612. Will it be possible to carry on the cultivation of sugar with the same economy and precision as formerly, without contracts of service for a limited period, such as are used in agricultural districts in England?—I think not. I dare now make no preconcerted arrangements to any extent, least their execution should be defeated ultimately, from the want of a command of labour.

613. Will no inducements of higher wages lead them to contract to serve by the month or quarter?—None but domestics have yet been induced to do it, and then only to the extent of a month. Agricultural labourers invariably refuse, and will never do it until increased numbers create a competition amongst them.

614. At present, then, you do not think there is a sufficiency of labourers in the district?—By no means. When men will only work four hours a-day in the field, at high wages, it is clear that there is not a sufficiency of hands to excite competition.

615. You say you have 300 labourers on the estate; how many more would you wish to obtain to keep up your present cultivation in the best order, and take off your crops in proper time?—The number now on the estate is more than sufficient, if they would only work fairly nine hours out of crop, and fourteen in. Working as they do at present, I should require twice as many for the field-work; but no additional number will enable me to take off the crop in time, unless the mill and works can be kept in activity for fourteen hours, which cannot now be done, as I have in vain attempted to engage extra spells.

616. But under the circumstances in which you are placed, and without reference to what might occur, how many additional labourers would you think it advantageous to engage, if you could?—I would with pleasure accept of the services of 150 more to-morrow.

617. What is the extent of the cultivation on your estate?—We have in canes 430 acres, in pasture 150, and in provisions 70—altogether, 650 acres.

618. With this increased strength, would you not then increase your cultivation as well as improve it?—I would not attempt to extend it, if they work no better than at present, but I am always under the impression that with an increased number, they must ultimately be compelled to work better.

619. Are your 70 acres of provision grounds sufficient for the subsistence of 450 persons?—They do not at present furnish subsistence for more than half our present number, being not half cultivated or properly cropped, but with proper cultivation, would be perfectly adequate to the subsistence of the whole number.

620. It would appear that the population upon the Orange Grove estate has increased 50 per cent. since emancipation; do you think it has increased to the same extent on other properties in the quarter?—I should think so, having no reason to believe the labourers would give me a preference.

621. Has there not been also a large increase of cottage-settlers in the district?—Yes, the whole public road is lined with settlers.

622. What prices do they usually pay for the lots of land they purchase?—At the rate of about 320 dollars to 640 dollars (133*l.* 6*s.* sterling) per acre.

623. Is it generally sold as high throughout the district?—Only when sold in lots on the public road. A good deal of land has been sold behind these lots, and at no great distance, at 100 dollars the *quarée*, or about 6*l.* 10*s.* sterling the acre; and farther off the price is still lower. A short time since a tract of 1,000 to 1,200 acres was sold at the rate of 9*s.* 4*d.* sterling the acre, on the banks of Caroni, with water communication to Port of Spain, from which it is only 12 miles distant, and within two miles of the public road leading to it.

624. Have you ever made use of the plough on the Orange Grove estate?—About twenty years ago I made an experiment, and it was so far successful that the land was well ploughed up; but there was no economy in it, as it required a number of extra hands to clear away stumps and roots to allow the plough to work. Since then all the canes planted have been in new land, where it was impossible to work a plough.

625. You are aware that the public in Britain expect a number of agricultural improvements to follow emancipation, which they think the institutions of slavery were calculated to impede—has that been the case?—Not as yet, whatever may be the case hereafter, when our emancipated labourers are made to work as freemen elsewhere. Instead of improvement in agriculture, everything has retrograded since emancipation. No work is done now as well as it was formerly. The quality of the sugar has fallen off considerably, from the impossibility of commanding due care and attention either to the weeding in the field, or to the skimming of the coppers. And this is a circumstance I forgot to notice when questioned as to the additional expense of working a sugar estate since emancipation. The quality of the Orange Grove sugar has deteriorated fully 5*s.* a cwt., making a loss of 4*l.* sterling a hogshead, or above 1,200*l.* sterling on the annual crops. No improvement in either agricultural or manufacturing processes can be expected until a labourer who misconducts himself finds it difficult to obtain employment.

626. How long a time would it take to form a sugar-estate in this colony, and produce a crop of 200 tons of sugar?—With a sufficiency of labour, it may be done in two years and a half to three years, from the first cutting down of the forest timber.

627. Do you mean to have all the works and machinery erected, and the sugar ready for shipping within that time?—Yes, the canes would be planted and coming to maturity whilst the works were erecting.

628. Would there be any difficulty in doing this to any great extent? could fifty estates, for instance producing 200 tons of sugar each be established in the same time as one?—I can see no difficulty in it with a sufficient number of labourers. The whole island could be converted into sugar-estates in that time. Every material for the first buildings could be found on the spot; and the cattle required for the cultivation could be procured from the Spanish Main, from whence our present supply is always derived.

TRINIDAD.

John Butler, Esq., called in and examined.

629. How long have you resided in this colony, and in what profession?—I am a member of the College of Surgeons of London, and of Apothecaries' Hall. I have resided in this colony seven years as a medical practitioner, above one-half of the time in the rural districts; and I have been resident surgeon in charge of the Colonial Hospital in Port of Spain since its establishment on the 1st July, 1840.

630. Is the Colonial Hospital the only one in the colony?—It is.

631. What is the extent of your accommodation for patients?—We can accommodate one hundred easily.

632. Have you ever had that number in the hospital?—We have never exceeded eighty, and the average number per day during the twelve months has been forty-one.

633. Do you consider the hospital, then, to be adequate to the purposes for which it was intended?—As to the extent of accommodation, it has been equal to our wants, and will answer in a temporary way; but it was never built for the purpose, and wants many necessary conveniences, which can easily be provided in the new building, which it is understood will be erected.

634. What has been the number of your patients, and are they classed under different heads as they enter, distinguishing natives from immigrants?—I keep a registry, in which is entered name, age, and country of the persons admitted. Within the twelve months we have admitted

427 European immigrants
105 United States „
83 Creoles of Trinidad, and other West India Islands.

615

Of which 501 have been cured,
69 deaths
5 dismissed for irregularities,
40 remaining in hospital.

615

635. Do you not class the patients according to their sexes?—I have not kept a separate registry; but there are separate apartments for the females, the whole number of which I do not think have exceeded thirty, amongst whom there were only four deaths.

636. Has your mortality been in a greater ratio than in hospitals in England?—Yes, nearly double? arising chiefly from the circumstance that nearly one-half of those returned as dead were brought into the hospital in a dying state; they were in fact brought in to be buried.

637. As you have kept a registry of their country, you can state the comparative mortality amongst the various immigrants; in which class has it been greatest?—Among the French and Germans, the mortality has been five to one as compared with the coloured immigrants.

638. From your present experience, do you think these Europeans immigrants will ever answer as labourers in this climate, looking to the advantages which they might derive from the change of country, without reference to the interests or wants of this colony?—I fear not; not that I apprehend that the climate in itself would prove so fatal, but they are of the lowest grade, without education or discretion, and are addicted to drinking in excess. Under these circumstances, I should never think it advantageous, for themselves or us, to introduce them.

639. Have you any remarks to make upon the relative mortality of the other classes of immigrants?—Nothing particular; a greater proportion of patients from the United States have been admitted, which I attribute to their having no friends and relatives in the island, and more disposed in consequence to seek relief in the hospital, but the mortality amongst them has not been greater than amongst our natives or the immigrants from the old islands.

640. Have you had in the hospital any of the Sierra Leone people who have now been in the colony above two months?—Only one, which was a surgical case—a little girl, struck and slightly injured by a carriage in the streets.

641. Have you had on the hospital list any of the liberated Africans, who, to the number of about one thousand, were landed here five or six years ago?—Only three; and I really believe them to be the healthiest class of people in the island, even more so than the Creoles. I do not judge merely from the hospital list, but I have occasion to know, that they follow more exclusively than any other persons the trade of wood-cutting for the supply of Port of Spain with fuel, the whole of which is taken from the large swamp to the eastward; and I think that no other class of labourers in the island could support as they do the marsh miasma to which they are continually exposed. During my residence at Cedros and Guapo, I had from two to three hundred of these people under my charge, immediately on landing, after their arrival from Cuba. Many of them were then in a wretched emaciated condition, but they improved gradually from the first moment of their arrival, and so far as my recollection serves me, there was not a single death amongst them. In general, you can recognise the liberated Africans before you see their country-marks, by their stout and healthy appearance.

642. As you have had, then, good opportunities of making yourself acquainted with this class, do you consider them upon the whole to be a manageable, orderly set of people?—Perfectly so.

Tuesday, 20th July, 1841.

Port of Spain.

The Honourable W. H. BURNLEY, in the Chair.

Rowley Hill Stewart, Esquire, called in and examined.

643. What official situation do you fill in this colony, and how long have you resided here?—I have resided here since 1827: from 1834 to 1838 I acted as assistant and deputy harbour-master, and in June of the latter year was appointed to the office on the resignation of my predecessor.

644. In addition to your ordinary duties, have you not some charge and control over the Spanish launches arriving from the opposite coast?—They report themselves to me immediately on arrival, and sign a written statement of their cargo before me, instead of the collector of the customs; which

statement is subsequently sent by me to the custom house, for the purpose of ascertaining whether any portion of the cargo is liable to duty.

645. Has the trade with the Spanish Main increased at all since you first acted in 1834?—So far as appears by my books, the trade has generally increased since that period.

646. Do you not then rely upon the returns in your books as perfectly correct?—As far as the imports go they are so; but with respect to the exports, there has always been a disposition amongst the class of persons engaged in this trade to conceal the amount of their exports, from no cause existing here, as no duty whatever is paid on them.

647. You think the amount of the trade is increasing generally; but has there been any great variation in any particular branch of it?—In one branch, that of imported vegetables and provisions, the increase has been great within the last few years, and particularly so from the end of 1838 until the present period; for instance the quantity of plantains imported in 1825 in the harbour of Port of Spain, amounted only to 159,700; in 1835 it increased to 2,026,700; and in 1840 to 4,332,900. Hogs during the same period have increased from 1,095 to 4,913. Fowls from 86 dozens to 860 dozens. Turkeys from 87 to 1,081 pair. The import of dried peas, goats, eggs, and other minor articles, have all increased in about the same proportion; and the number of horned cattle which was only 734 in 1835, amounted in 1840 to 4,320; having nearly doubled since 1835.

648. Do we receive vegetable and provisions from any other part of the world?—No yams are brought from the Spanish Main, but large quantities are introduced from Grenada and St. Vincents, which trade has altogether arisen within the last three years. We import besides Indian corn to a great extent, and dried peas from the United States, besides flour, the quantity of which has immensely increased within the last two or three years, as the returns from the custom house will show.

649. To what do you ascribe this immense increase of imported provisions?—Partly to the increase in population, but chiefly to the circumstance of the cultivation of provisions being latterly less attended to by the labouring population, who, from the high wages given, find it easier to buy than to raise them. Port of Spain, which was formerly supplied from estates in the island, is now in a great degree fed by imported provisions; and I know as a fact that the town of San Fernando which formerly received its supplies of vegetables and provisions from the neighbouring districts, is now not only furnished from abroad, but the labourers from the estates in the interior come into town to supply themselves.

650. In what way are these imported supplies paid for?—It is a retail trade at the wharf, and paid for in money; but the whole amount is finally taken away in British goods. The inhabitants on the adjoining parts of the Spanish Main receive from us almost every description of agricultural and domestic articles; and latterly it has embraced objects not known before, such as wine, porter, loaf-sugar and even Irish potatoes when new and abundant.

651. How are returns made for the imported provisions from Grenada and St. Vincents?—Principally in Irish butter, lard, and flour, with some French olive-oil and candles, and a small quantity of dry goods.

652. As harbour master, and visiting all vessels on arrival, you have an opportunity of seeing all immigrants which come in?—I am officially directed to take the names of all persons coming in, distinguishing labourers from others, and to send in a list of the same to Government House.

653. Is the number of immigrants increasing?—The number has gradually increased since the first publication of the Immigration Ordinance. For the last twelve months it has continued steadily at the rate of 300 per month.

654. Have you ever had occasion to observe that the immigrants had suffered any hardships or privations during the voyage?—None whatever. They come as comfortably as other passengers, and are not of a disposition to submit to any privations, for which they well know how to procure redress. Besides the vessels bringing them principally belong to the islands from whence they come, and they are well acquainted with the captains, whose interest is to make them comfortable.

655. Do they ever suffer from want of employment on arrival?—On the contrary, such is the competition to secure them, that but for a regulation which prevents it, the employers would board the immigrant vessels to engage their services, before I had officially visited them: and I know that a premium is now given of five dollars (20s. 10d.) per head to persons who have influence enough to engage them, and this without any contract on their part to serve for any specific time; so that they may, and very frequently do, leave the parties engaging them immediately afterwards.

656. Do you consider the harbour of Port of Spain in every respect safe and good?—Perfectly so—it is land-locked;—the water always smooth—the holding ground excellent. Ships seldom require more than one anchor down—and not a single accident has occurred in it, from wind or weather, since I assumed the duties of the office in 1834.

Thomas F. Johnston, called in and examined.

657. How long have you resided in this colony and in what capacity?—I have resided here fifteen years, filling successively various government appointments and am at present Assistant Colonial Secretary, Clerk of the Council, and Agent-general of Immigrants.

658. When was the first Immigration Ordinance passed in this colony?—In November, 1838. In April, 1839, another ordinance annulling the former was passed, and with subsequent amendments from the Colonial Office, is now in force.

659. What has been the whole number of immigrants received in this colony under the Ordinance?—By this return which I have brought to the committee, the total number received and paid for, from 1st January, 1839, to 30th June, 1841, amounts to 3,879, and the sum paid for their passages to £12,637 sterling.

660. But have not a large number of immigrants arrived, who are not included in that statement?—A great number; being those whose passages were not paid under the Ordinance, in consequence of the sexes not being equal, and in some cases from an excess of number in proportion to the tonnage.

661. By whom in these cases was the passage money paid?—I believe chiefly by the proprietors who engaged their services, and in some cases by themselves.

662. Can you state the total number of those who were thus rejected?—Including 1,200 Germans and Maltese, the whole number is 2,600. Besides which during the same period, about 4,000 persons have arrived under the head of passengers, servants, mechanics, transients, &c., of which I believe more

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than one-third have remained in the colony, so that the whole number of immigrants arrived within the last two years and a half may be estimated at about 8000.

663. But are you not aware that many immigrants besides have been landed down the coast who were never reported to you, nor the passage money claimed—the employers below preferring to pay it rather than run the risk of their being enticed away in Port of Spain?—I have heard of such cases having occurred, but can form no idea of their number.

664. As it is your duty to visit the immigrants immediately on arrival, please to state if any cases of distress or privation have occurred during the voyage which you have found it necessary to report?—In no case whatever has any complaint been made by immigrants arriving here, and from my own personal observation I may say that every care has been taken to make them comfortable, without which the captains know they would forfeit the passage money.

665. Has the regulation in the Immigration Ordinance which provides that necessary and proper accommodation shall be found for them on shore, in case of the immigrants not finding immediate employment ever been acted upon?—Never for that purpose, for such is the demand for labour, that no sooner than a vessel arrives, but their services are immediately engaged.

666. Do you think the competition for their services continues as great as ever?—I think it does.

667. Have you had any opportunities of ascertaining whether these immigrants are enabled to lay by money immediately on arrival?—They get the same wages as others, and can all lay by money if of a saving disposition; but as to particular instances, I am only acquainted with the following circumstance: Some time since, I acted temporarily for the Escribano of the Court of Intendant in the sale of some government land, and among the purchasers were five American immigrants, who paid each from 120 to 160 dollars, (£33. 6s. sterling) for lots they purchased, although they had not been twelve months in the colony.

668. As you must frequently meet with them again sometime after their arrival, have any amongst them made any reasonable complaints against the colony or their employers?—None as against the country, which they all appear to like much; and the only serious complaint, which I regret however to say is a very frequent one, is that of being denied medicines and medical attendance when sick on estates; and I have seen numerous instances of their being sent up to town to find their way to the hospital when in a wretched low state, and this in cases where they had been promised both as part of the agreement. In fact, no emigrant arrives here without being cautioned by me, at the express desire of the governor, not to engage their services but to persons who will engage to provide them with medicines and medical attendance.

669. In the cases you allude to of breach of engagements, why did they not immediately apply to the stipendiary magistrate for redress?—Principally I think from these promises having been verbal, or on slips of paper, and not in the proper form to enable them to recover before a magistrate.

670. Do you not consider it to be your first duty to point out to these immigrants, on arrival the simple forms which our contracts for service require to render them binding?—I invariably inform them, on arrival with the law of regulating contracts for service, and tell them that it is entirely at their option to engage themselves, or not, for twelve months, six months, one month, or even a single day; also that any contracts entered into before their arrival are null and void, and that they are free here to make fresh engagements with whom they please, with every other information they may require.

671. You consequently inform them that a contract made for any period not less than a month requires to be signed before a magistrate, which will immediately make it legally binding upon all the parties; why do they not, then, insist upon the condition of medical attendance, which from the competition for their services they can easily do, and, to ensure it, enter into a contract for the short period of one month?—I believe that they have a decided objection to binding themselves to labour for any specified time, and prefer working by the task.

672. If then they will not contract to serve for a single day, can they reasonably expect employers to incur heavy expenses if they fall sick?—In the case of the promise being made to the immigrant, he has a decided cause of complaint if it is not fulfilled.

673. But can you suppose that any sensible reflecting man would bind himself to furnish medical attendance and nourishment to a labourer when sick and infirm, who on his part when in health and strength will not bind himself for a single day?—No reflecting man would; but I have reason to believe that many such promises have been made and not fairly kept.

674. May not the mischief arise in some degree from so much pains being exclusively taken to impress upon the minds of immigrants the moment they arrive, their right and freedom to abstain from all engagements even for a day; and might it not be much more advantageous for these poor strangers, if the government instructed its officers earnestly to recommend to them at the same time, the benefit, indeed necessity, of entering into contracts for the short period of a month, by which the unjustifiable and distressing cases you have mentioned would be avoided?—I can offer no opinion upon the question, and can only say that I have strictly adhered to the instructions given to me on the subject.

675. Are you aware of any other just cause of complaint which you think immigrant labourers in this colony have against their employers?—I am not aware of any.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE.

TRINIDAD.

THE Sub-Committee appointed on the 11th day of February last, to "inquire and report respecting the state of the agricultural interests of the colony since the abolition of apprenticeship in August, 1838, their present condition and future prospects, and to recommend such measures as they may think conducive to the general prosperity," have the honour to state, that in consequence of the immediate departure of the Chairman from the colony, they have found it impossible to complete a detailed report on the evidence taken before them, and have deemed it advisable to embody the conclusions to which they have come in the following resolutions, a copy of which, together with the evidence, they now lay before the society:—

1st. That by the evidence taken it appears that at the period of the extinction of apprenticeship in 1838, there were in the island of Trinidad—

184 sugar estates,
39,328 inhabitants,
43,265 acres of land in cultivation,
208,379 acres belonging to private individuals,
1,079,301 acres belonging to the Crown.

2nd. That the whole capital invested in sugar estates may be strictly designated "manufacturing capital;" that the value of the 184 sugar estates in this colony exceeds, at a low estimate, two millions sterling, which gives above £50 sterling per head for every inhabitant, constituting an excessive proportion of fixed manufacturing capital, with reference to population; of which even the mother country, possessing the most extensive and costly manufactories in Europe, affords no precedent, and which, if not corrected, must prove ultimately ruinous to the interests of proprietors in this island.

3rd. That this injurious disproportion is daily increasing, in consequence of the superabundance of land held by private individuals, of which very little more than one-fifth is or can, with our present population, be brought into profitable cultivation. The remaining four-fifths are consequently of no benefit to the present owners, who are selling them off in small lots, by which the number of labourers previously employed in the manufacture of sugar, and found to be insufficient, is rapidly decreasing; and this evil is further aggravated by the great extent of Crown lands in the colony not being effectually protected against the intrusion of unauthorized settlers.

4th. That out of this deficiency of population, as compared to the extent of granted land and fixed capital, arise the following alarming evils, which are clearly and distinctly proved in the evidence. All proprietors or agents in charge of capital in this island are now dependent upon the will of the labourers to a degree unparalleled, it is believed, in any part of the world, at any period of time; for although similar disproportions between land and population may have existed, such a disproportion between population and land in connexion with capital has not hitherto been possible, being solely the artificial result of British legislation, which first chained the labourers to the soil, whereby fixed capital was disproportionately extended, and then suddenly set them free. This dependence upon the will of the labourers has given to them the exclusive power of fixing the terms of all contracts of service and rates of wages, which not only tends to the destruction of the profits of capital, but has directly led to such demoralizing results amongst the labourers themselves, as threaten entirely to supersede every benefit expected from the boon of emancipation.

5th. That these evils, resulting solely from a deficient population, can only be corrected by one of the two following processes:—firstly, by the destruction of a portion of our present fixed capital, with a cession to the Crown of all uncultivated lands, so that both land and capital may be brought to bear a reasonable proportion to the actual population; or, secondly, by the introduction of a sufficient number of labourers to adjust correctly these three elements of civilization, in the proportions which are found naturally to exist in all prosperous free communities.

6th. That the remedy which would be afforded by the introduction of a population from foreign sources is, in the opinion of this Committee, the only one to be recommended; being productive of no loss or sacrifice of capital, and easily effected by simply abandoning some of the restrictions now imposed on immigration, which are not only at variance with free principles, but by forcing almost exclusively our urgent demands for labour upon the British colonies around us, tend to impede their efforts to preserve their own fixed capital from loss, and directly prevent their emancipated population from settling down steadily and contentedly in their native homes.

7th. That a permission granted to the colonists of Trinidad to engage labourers in Africa (to whom the change in every social and moral point of view would be highly beneficial), would remedy every existing evil, and be easily effected without the slightest pecuniary cost to the mother country, by the establishment only of a land and emigration fund in this colony, from the proceeds of which every necessary expense could be easily defrayed.

8th. That this mode of proceeding, whilst it holds out a rational prospect of extinguishing the present traffic in slaves, by the successful efforts of free labour, will assist rather than interfere with any other plan now under consideration by Her Majesty's Government for the same object. It will involve us in no angry collision with the natives of Africa, whose wretched habits, the growth of ages, may be gradually effaced by gentle persuasion, but can never be eradicated by force. Whenever British power and authority presents itself to them clothed only in the missionary garb of peace, holding the Bible in one hand and a manumission fund in the other, we may reasonably hope for success. In this mode alone can the tracts of

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fertile soil, so lavishly spread by Almighty Providence over the surface of this island, be brought into cultivation and made available for human use, which otherwise must remain as hitherto, lifeless and barren wastes; but so employed will be converted into a mine of wealth, creating immediately an extensive field for British enterprise and British capital, furnishing an ample fund for the redemption of Africans from bondage, and holding out the cheering expectation of extinguishing for ever the cause which alone creates and supports the present execrable traffic in slaves.

The foregoing resolutions having been read, and unanimously adopted, it was then moved by the Honourable Henry Murray, and seconded by Mr. Dennistoun—

That the Honourable W. H. Burnley be requested and authorized by the Committee to lay these resolutions, and the evidence on which they are founded, before Her Majesty's Government, and to make such representations upon the matters elicited by the inquiries of the Sub-Committee as he may deem to be best calculated to further the ends for which the Sub-Committee was appointed, and generally to promote the interests of the colony.

APPENDIX.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Copy.]

Sir,

Port of Spain, 7th July, 1841.

I AM directed by the Committee of the Agricultural and Immigration Society to request that you will communicate, respectfully, to His Excellency the Governor, that as the labours of the Committee are now drawing towards a close, they will be happy to invite the attendance of any gentleman whom His Excellency may please to name as competent to give additional information on the subjects inquired into, or to set any of them in a clearer or more impartial point of view.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JOHN LOSH,

Secretary Immigration and Agricultural Society.

The Hon. Arthur White,
Colonial Secretary.

[Copy.]

Sir,

Government-House, 9th July, 1841.

I AM directed by the Governor to acquaint you, in reply to your note to me of the 7th instant, that when His Excellency granted permission to the public officers to attend the meetings of the Committee of the Immigration Society, he was under the impression that this Committee had been appointed for the purpose of procuring and "furnishing information to the public in Great Britain, with respect to the actual state of agricultural affairs in this Colony, and more particularly as to the real amount of wages paid to the labourers;" but as it now appears to the Governor that the investigations of the Committee have extended to a much wider field, His Excellency declines any participation in its proceedings.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WHITE, Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. John Losh.

[Copy.]

Sir,

Port of Spain, 12th July, 1841.

YOUR communication of the 9th instant, to the Secretary of the Agricultural and Immigration Society, was forwarded to me in the district of Tacarigua, which has delayed its earlier acknowledgment. On the 8th of March last, I had the honour to communicate to His Excellency the Governor, a copy of the Resolutions passed at the public meeting held on the 11th of February preceding, which I will again take the liberty to repeat:—

"That a Sub-Committee be appointed to inquire and report respecting the state of the agricultural interests of the Colony since the abolition of apprenticeship, in August 1838; their present condition and future prospects, and to recommend such measures as they may think conducive to the general prosperity."

The Committee, in performance of the task thus imposed upon them, felt it to be their duty to occupy the widest field which the subject required, whilst, they trust, they have abstained from overstepping its legitimate boundaries. They have spared no pains to render the inquiry as useful and complete as possible. They have held their sittings not only in Port of Spain, but in the most populous rural districts, for the purpose of obtaining the best local evidence, with the least inconvenience to the parties examined. They have given entire publicity to their proceedings, that their scope, drift, and tendency might be manifest, and that every individual in the community might be furnished with an opportunity of tendering such further evidence; as a more perfect elucidation of the subject might appear to require.

They are aware that in this Colony no measure, however beneficial, can be assured of success, unless countenanced by the Executive; and under this feeling His Excellency's assistance in inducing the public officers to furnish information was solicited by me on the

8th of March, and frankly accorded by him in your reply of the 18th; and the Committee would indeed experience deep regret to find that by any of their subsequent proceedings they had ceased to merit this mark of his favour. In your communication of the 18th March alluded to, and in the same paragraph conveying His Excellency's assent to the examination of the public officers, he distinctly intimated to the Committee the propriety of observing impartiality in the course of their inquiry; and they subsequently felt themselves bound to afford him an opportunity of ensuring it, by sending other parties (if he thought the case required it) to qualify or amend the evidence previously obtained. From this motive alone the Secretary of the Committee was directed to address his communication to you of the 7th instant, and from no desire to draw His Excellency into any participation of our proceedings; or to relieve me from the slightest portion of the responsibility which necessarily devolves upon me as Chairman of the Committee.

I have the honour to request that you will communicate this letter, respectfully, to His Excellency the Governor.

I am, &c.,
 (Signed) WILLIAM H. BURNLEY,
 Chairman of the Agricultural and Immigration Society.

The Hon. Arthur White.

(No. 19.)

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27th December, 1841.

YOUR despatch, No. 85, of the 20th August, transmitting evidence taken by a Sub-Committee of the Agricultural and Immigration Society of Trinidad, having been referred to the Colonial Land and Emigration Board, I now enclose to you a Copy of the Report which I have received from that Board.

At the conclusion of that Report, it is observed that under the Trinidad Emigration Ordinance, as it now stands, "the revenues of the colony are pledged to defray the charge of introducing any number of emigrants whose description is in accordance with the ordinance, and should the efforts now making to increase that number be successful in any considerable degree, it is conceivable that demands might be made upon the Colonial Treasury beyond what it could meet."

I request that you will take this matter into immediate consideration, with a view either to fix a maximum to which the charge on the Colonial Treasury on account of immigration shall be limited, or so to alter the law as to enable you to apportion the charge to be incurred from time to time to the probable state of the Colonial finances.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) STANLEY.

Lieut. Governor Sir Henry MacLeod,
 &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 16.

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Encl. in No. 16.

TRINIDAD.

Colonial Land and Immigration Office, 9, Park Street, Westminster,
3rd December, 1841.

Sir,

IN obedience to Lord Stanley's directions contained in your letter of the 11th October last, we have considered the evidence and report upon the present condition of Trinidad, which have been recently forwarded to this country through the Governor of that Island.

We find that this evidence has been taken by a Committee of the Agricultural and Immigration Society of Trinidad, specially appointed by that body to inquire into the Agricultural interests of the Colony since the abolition of apprenticeship, their present condition and future prospects, and to recommend such measures as they might think conducive to the general prosperity.

The evidence runs to some length, no fewer than 21 witnesses having been examined, and there can be no doubt that a very full picture is afforded of the industrial condition of the Colony, and of the means at present existing for raising produce from the soil. How far it may be also correct, and complete in all its parts, we are unable fully to determine. The Governor, in forwarding it to this country at the request of the Society, has not accompanied it with any remark. We conclude also that the Society by which the inquiry has been instituted consists exclusively of the proprietors of the soil, or of those identified with them in interest. At the same time we feel bound to state that there is variety in the class of witnesses examined, and that there is apparent impartiality in the mode of conducting the inquiry. The character, moreover, and ability of the Chairman of the Committee, and above all the unanimity of the witnesses upon the most material points, give us reason to suppose that reliance may be placed upon several of the general results derivable from the investigation.

If we are correct in drawing this conclusion, the most useful service, perhaps, that we can render on the present occasion is to submit a brief digest of the evidence, and to offer, in conclusion, such remarks as the Report of the Committee, which is annexed to the Evidence, appears to call for.

Before entering on the task, however, it may be right that we should state what is the general description of witnesses examined by this Committee, and into what classes they may be divided; and, as the main object of the inquiry, undoubtedly, was to ascertain the state of the relations subsisting between employers and labourers, it is necessary to consider whether the interests of the latter were sufficiently represented before the Committee. We find, then, that the 21 witnesses examined may be divided as follows:—

Planters and Managers	7
Official Persons	7
Roman Catholic Bishop . . .	1
Protestant Clergymen	2
Miscellaneous	4
	—
	21

Of the seven planters or managers, one had formerly been a slave; but having been intrusted with the exclusive management of an estate, his feelings and interests may be supposed to have ceased to be identified with those of the labourers. The persons whom we have classed as miscellaneous, are, a native of Barbadoes, a surveyor, a professor of Botany, and a barrister. It appears, then, that none of the labouring classes were themselves examined; and of those whose knowledge of them is derived from direct and personal intercourse with them, it is only the three clergymen, whose situation might be considered as in itself excepting them from all bias.

It may now be convenient that we should divide the digest of the evidence under three heads, which represent the most prominent objects of inquiry before the Committee. First, the lands of the colony, viz., all that relates to their character and condition, and to the occupation of them. Secondly, the supply of labour at present existing in the Colony, and the description and character of the labourers. And, thirdly, the introduction of fresh labourers, or immigration.

I. LANDS.

1. Fertility.—All the witnesses who speak on the point, agree in their testimony as to the unusual fertility of the soil over the whole island. Mr. Basanta, the late Surveyor-General, appears to have made a calculation that four-fifths of the island were fit for cultivation, and two-thirds for the cultivation of sugar. But another witness, Mr. Brown, a sworn surveyor, who has resided in the colony more than forty years, thinks that with very trifling exceptions, the whole island is capable of most profitable cultivation; and that Mr. Basanta's assertion, that only four-fifths of the island were fit for cultivation, must have referred to sugars, which could not be cultivated profitably on the heights; but where any other description of tropical produce could be easily raised. Even on the small tract to the westward of the Arima River, to which alone, throughout the island, the witness considered that the term sterile might be applied, the most superior hardwood timber is found growing thick and close. Mr. Darling, a merchant and planting attorney, who has been between nine and ten years in the colony, says, that cane-pieces have been pointed out to him which have been forty years in cultivation, and are still perfectly good; and he believes that the island is capable of furnishing much more than a sufficiency of sugar for the consumption of Great Britain. Mr. Lockhart, who has been at the head of the Botanical Garden for more than twenty years, appears from his pursuits, and the opportunities he has had of making comparisons, to be the most competent of the witnesses upon this point. He has been into the interior of Africa, and has visited

Cuba, Jamaica, the Bermudas, most of the Windward Islands, and Venezuela on the Spanish Main; and he states, that he has seen nothing in them equal to Trinidad, in the great variety and excellence of the soils, and particularly in its seasons, which are exempt from the droughts common to all the other islands, from Barbadoes to Cuba. He adds, moreover, that his experiments have proved that the spices of the East, and Mocha coffee, could be successfully cultivated.

2. Superficial Extent.—The superficial extent of the island appears, by what the Surveyor-General considers as the most probable calculation, to be 1,287,680 acres; and of this quantity only 208,379 acres have been granted, leaving in the possession of the Crown no less than 1,079,301 acres. It further appears, by the latest official returns, that of the land granted, only 43,265 acres are in cultivation, of which not quite one-half is planted in sugar-canes. In addition, therefore, to the large amount of land still held by the Crown, there are 165,114 acres of waste land in the possession of individuals.

3. Squatting.—The amount of unused land, joined to its extreme fertility, appears to have led to an extensive system of unauthorized occupation. This is stated to have arisen since the emancipation of the slaves, and to be upon the increase, although it is admitted that it has not extended into the interior. One planter mentions an establishment of 500 squatters in one locality, but the evidence is incomplete as to the actual extent to which this system has been carried. The return of all the persons who might be found squatting on the Crown lands, which was ordered by the Secretary of State in a circular despatch, dated 30th January, 1836, is stated by a witness, who had filled the office of Colonial Secretary, never to have been made. There is an Order in Council against squatting, which was passed on the 6th October, 1838, but the rules and forms of proceeding under it are stated by Mr. Knox, an English barrister, to be so numerous and complicated, that the order is virtually inoperative for private individuals, nor do proceedings appear to have been instituted under it by the direct authority of the Colonial Government. Mr. Darling also states, that the squatting cannot be prevented under the present ordinance, from its inherent defects, and never will be, unless an executive officer is appointed by the Government to enforce it.

4. Roads.—Before quitting the first general head of "Land," it may be well to mention, that there is one point connected with the physical condition of the country, and the occupation of the lands, which is much dwelt upon by the principal witnesses—we allude to the difficulty of establishing lines of communication between different parts of the island, and of maintaining the roads which have been made. Mr. Brown states that this arises from the fertility of the soil. Another witness, that the nature of the soil is deep, stiff, and tenacious, and that there is almost an entire want of the proper materials for constituting a road. Loss is hence occasioned to the planters, as unless all the crop has been transported before the rain commences, it is impossible to move the remainder until the ensuing season, by which time it has declined much in quantity and quality. There is a concurrence of testimony from practical and scientific men in favour of railroads, which, from the level state of the country, and the abundance of good timber, it is thought would not only be the best means of communication, but ultimately the cheapest. The state of the communications, as they exist at present, would appear to act as a check upon the enterprise of the planters, and to present an almost insuperable obstacle to the extension of fresh settlements.

II. LABOUR.

We now turn to the important question investigated by the Committee as to the amount and efficiency of the labour which can at the present time be obtained in the island, and be made available for the cultivation of the soil.

1. Population.—The actual numbers of the labouring population are not given in the evidence. The last census for the island which can be in any way relied upon was taken in 1838. The returns in 1839 and 1840 were so defective, owing, as the Commissary of Population states, to the wandering disposition of the labourers, that it was found impracticable to make a general census. The official returns of population from 1797 to 1838, with the exception of the years which intervene between 1824 and 1829, were handed in to the Committee. From them it appears that the number of inhabitants in 1838 was 39,328, that the females slightly preponderated over the males, and that the population had diminished since 1828 by 1,692 persons. But whatever may be the actual number of labourers in the island, the amount of labour supplied is affirmed in evidence to be altogether insufficient for the wants of the planters, and to have deteriorated in its character since the period of emancipation. That the supply is deficient is proved by the high rate of wages, and by the competition which exists amongst employers to obtain the services of the labourers. The evidence on the first point, or the high wages, appears conclusive, whether viewed with reference to the expense of living, or compared with the rates in neighbouring places, or in the old islands.

2. Rates of Wages.—The amount usually paid in Trinidad appears to be 2s. 2d. for a task, besides allowances. The allowances consist of a house and provision grounds, rent free, half a pound of cod-fish, and one or two glasses of rum per task, and sometimes medicines and medical attendance. To those engaged in the manufacture of sugar, pork, flour, and biscuit, are given in addition. Two of these tasks, it is stated by the planters and managers, can be easily performed in one day; the American immigrants generally do three; but if two be performed, the profits of the labourer in the field, including the value of his allowances, may be reckoned at 5s. a day. Those who work about the mill and boiling-house, the labour being lighter and more agreeable, only earn about 3s. 4d. a day. The wages of domestic servants are 12 dollars a month for the men, and 10 dollars for the women. The evidence

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as to the expense of living for the labourers is not very complete. One proprietor states that he has ascertained that an expenditure of 1s. 3d. a week on farinaceous food, in addition to the allowance of fish, will support a labourer comfortably for the week; and it is his opinion that an ordinary labourer can certainly, if he pleases, lay by 20 dollars, or more than £4 sterling, a month. Another witness (a manager) states that labourers can easily save 6 or 7 dollars a week, and instances two women on the estate who save as much.

Such being the remuneration ordinarily given for labour in Trinidad, it is compared in the evidence with the rate of wages obtained in places from which a fresh supply of labourers has been recently obtained.

It is stated by a gentleman who had lately arrived from Barbados, that labourers receive in that island 10d. sterling a day, with house and grounds rent free; but except occasionally a beverage of rum water and molasses, no allowance of provisions. If the house and grounds be not given, the pay is 1s. 3d. sterling a day.

In St. Lucie, it appears from the evidence of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Agna, who had been a short time before in that colony, that wages vary from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. a day, with houses and gardens for the labourers; but no other allowances of any description. A day's work is considered to be 9 or 10 hours, exclusive of the time required for meals.

In Venezuela, on the continent adjoining Trinidad, the rate of wages is represented by a stipendiary magistrate acquainted with affairs in that republic, to be very low in the interior, not exceeding five dollars a month, with food; but that near Trinidad they rise, and are as high as 1s. 8d. per day of 8 hours' duration on the shores of the Gulf.

The rate of wages at Sierra Leone is given by Lieutenant Hamilton, who had arrived at Trinidad with a party of emigrants from that colony. This gentleman had resided three years in Sierra Leone, and states that the rate of wages does not exceed 4d. a day, and that at this rate there is a great scarcity of employment. That filling the office of assistant surveyor, he has frequently turned away from 200 to 300 men soliciting employment at that rate. He adds further, that in saying this he is speaking only of Free Town; but that in the villages and sea districts he is at a loss to conceive what employment can be found for the population.

It therefore would appear to be sufficiently proved that the wages of labour in Trinidad are extremely high, both with reference to the cost of living, and to the rates in other places; and this fact may of course be assumed to indicate the scarcity of labour compared with the capital applicable to its employment.

3. Competition amongst Employers for Labourers.—The same conclusion of the scarcity of labour is also obtained from the competition which apparently exists among employers to obtain labourers; a competition which affects the relation between the two parties in a manner unknown in older and more thickly-peopled countries. One example of this is furnished by the system of granting certain allowances over and above the wages, to which allusion has already been made. All parties agree in condemning it as most injurious to the labourers.

The Chairman of the Agricultural Society says, in his letter to the Governor, that the distribution of provisions, &c., tends to create unthrifty habits in the labourer, who, receiving often more than he requires, wastefully disposes of the rest; and that of all the allowances granted, that of rum is the most intolerable in its accompanying circumstances, and the most alarming in its future consequences. The Governor replies, that he "coincides most perfectly with the view taken of this subject, and is glad to find that it is the opinion of the Society." The clergymen lament the practice, particularly as regards the distribution of rum, in the strongest terms. Mr. Giuseppi, a stipendiary magistrate, considers that if the practice be continued for two or three years longer, it will demoralize the whole labouring population. It further appears, that the planters also invariably admit that it is demoralizing and pernicious. Yet the competition amongst them to secure the services of labourers is so great, that unanimity in suppressing it had been found impossible. If one party attempted it he would lose all his labourers, who would engage themselves to work for those who were willing to continue the indulgence. And although we have seen it stated in some public journals subsequently to the taking of the evidence now under consideration, that some efforts had been made in parts of the island to put down the practice by consent, none appear to be sanguine that the change can last beyond next crop time.

Again, the labourers will not enter into any contracts for service. One witness who has the management of the largest estate in Trinidad, says, that he never heard of any contract beyond a day. Agricultural labourers refuse to engage themselves for the quarter or the month. Another witness says, that he should not dare to attempt getting the labourers on his estate to sign an agreement, to work six days in succession. They seldom indeed engage by the day, but only for the task, which can be performed in four hours. Domestic servants will sometimes engage themselves for the month, but even then the competition amongst masters to obtain servants is so great, as appears by the evidence of the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, a Protestant clergyman, that characters are neither given nor required with the servants. The Immigration Agent moreover states that, "such is the demand for labour, that no sooner a vessel arrives, but their services are immediately engaged;" a statement fully corroborated by the evidence of another official person. Mr. Stewart, the Harbour Master, makes the following reply to the question whether immigrant labourers suffer from want of employment on arrival. "On the contrary, such is the competition to secure them, that but for a regulation which prevents it, the employers would board the immigrant vessels, to engage their services before I had officially visited them; and I know that a premium is now given of five dollars (20s. 10d.) per head, to persons who have influence enough to engage them, and this without any contract on their part to serve for any specific time; so that they may, and very frequently do, leave the parties engaging them immediately afterwards."

4. *Industrial Habits and Moral Character of the Labourers.*—In following out the examination which has been instituted by the Agricultural Society, into the condition and character of the labouring population, we now come to the consideration of the important question, whether the industrial habits, and the moral character of the labourers belonging to the island, have deteriorated since their emancipation from slavery; and, first, as regards their industrial habits. The opinion of the witnesses examined before this committee, appears to be unfavourable to the labourers in this respect. It is affirmed that the amount of produce raised from the soil has diminished, and that the expense of raising it has increased, while as regards the article of sugar, the quality of it has considerably deteriorated; that land also is going out of cultivation, and especially that the provision grounds of the labourers, are becoming yearly less productive, through neglect.

Mr. Phillip, the owner of three sugar estates, in answer to a question whether his crops had increased in the same proportion as his labourers (the number of which had been doubled), says, "Certainly, not on my estates, and generally I believe there has been a great decrease throughout the district; many cane-pieces are now overgrown with brushwood, which were previously in cultivation." Mr. Maxwell, the manager of an estate, says, that the raising of provisions and small stock, has since the Emancipation, "fallen off very much; they are so scarce now as hardly to be procured." Dr. Meikleham, a proprietor, says, that the cultivation of provision grounds "has been generally neglected by the labourers." The Harbour Master ascribes "the immense increase of imported provisions," which he states had taken place within the last two or three years, chiefly "to the neglect of the labouring population in cultivating them." "Port of Spain," he says, "which was formerly supplied from estates in Trinidad, is now in a great degree fed by imported provisions, and I know as a fact that the town of San Fernando, which formerly received its supplies of vegetables and provisions from the neighbouring districts, is now not only furnished from abroad, but the labourers from the estates in the interior, come into town to supply themselves." The complaint of the increase in the expenses of production, seem generally supported by the proprietors and managers, who were examined. One who owns three estates, says, that the expenses are much greater, and have been continually and regularly increasing to the present time, since the period of Emancipation. And that his revenue in 1840, as compared with 1838 and 1839, "was decidedly less from the greater increase of expenses and rise in wages." Another witness, a planting attorney for seven estates, says that the expenses of cultivation have nearly doubled, the cash wages alone, without allowances, being nearly one-half of the whole expenditure. He further explains as one of the causes of this increase "the growing carelessness of the labourers, the irregularity of their work, and their reckless disregard of the stock and utensils." This circumstance is also dwelt upon by another witness, the manager of an extensive estate, who gives some minute particulars as to the idle and careless habits of the labourers (607).

In support of the evidence as to the diminution in the amount of land in sugar cultivation, we should observe, that the official returns made to this country state, that in the year 1838 there were 30,161 acres planted in sugar-canes, and in 1839, 25,377 acres. While from the latest returns in the office of the Surveyor-General in the Colony, which were laid before this Committee, and which we suppose related to the year 1840, it appears that now only 21,700 acres are so planted. There is also more than a corresponding diminution in the amount of produce. For the year 1838 the official return states, that 40,848,784 lbs. of sugar were produced, and in 1839 only 26,553,765 lbs. The extent of land used in the cultivation of provision is returned as, in 1838, 13,903 acres; and in 1839, 5,463 acres. The latest return, however, from the Surveyor's Office, laid before this Committee, gives, we suppose for the past year, 6,313 acres under this description of cultivation.

With regard to the second point, namely, the moral character of the labouring population of Trinidad, it is satisfactory to observe, that, notwithstanding the complaints which to so great extent are made in the evidence before us by their employers, the two clergymen of the Church of England, and the Roman Catholic Bishop, agree in considering that gradual improvement has taken place in their general character and conduct.

The Rev. Mr. Mühlhauser, who for five years has had the spiritual charge of an extensive district, is of opinion that the state of the labouring classes is generally improving, both physically and morally. Marriages have increased amongst them, and they have a due sense of the duties and obligations of the married state. He thinks also they are improving in industry, although "there is certainly a great opening for further improvement in this respect." Their circumstances he considers "very comfortable," and he knows that many of them are saving money. "Every man who is willing to work can find employment at good wages," and even those who neglect work habitually, are not reduced to want, "as the high wages they receive while they do work prevents that." They are, as yet, indisposed to subscribe to any provident fund.

The Rev. J. H. Hamilton, who for four years has been clergyman over four districts, and states that he is not in any way interested in the profits of sugar cultivation, but has derived his knowledge of the labouring classes from intercourse with them in his ministerial capacity, considers that though their moral and religious state is at a low ebb, yet a gradual improvement is taking place. That there is a better observance of the Sabbath, an increase in marriages, and the abandonment of many superstitious and immoral customs, and that consider-

TRINIDAD.

and he is most anxious that the competition amongst employers for their services, which is demoralizing to the labourers should, if possible, be lessened. He considers that the facilities for religious instruction are less in Trinidad than in the old islands.

Dr. Smith, the Roman Catholic bishop, whose diocese comprises a large proportion of the West India Islands, considers that the emancipation had had the most favourable effect upon the general conduct and behaviour of the peasantry throughout the islands, particularly in a religious point of view; but he adds, that in some parts of Trinidad great deductions are to be made from this favourable statement. He ascribes the evils which exist amongst the labourers of this island to the competition of the masters for their services, and considers the custom of allowing them rum as most pernicious. There is a want of schools, or rather of the funds for keeping them up; and the labouring classes, as was also stated by the two preceding witnesses, are most unwilling to contribute anything towards the education of their children, although he decidedly thinks that there is no peasantry in any part of the world so well able to pay for it. Marriages, however, he considers to be increasing; and he has succeeded in establishing twenty benefit societies, with 2800 members, most of whom are heads of families.

5. Labourers occupying Land.—There is much concurrent testimony as to the fact of the labourers settling upon land, and for the most part withdrawing themselves from the labour market. As already observed by us under the head of "Squatting," the practice of unauthorized occupation, especially on the Crown lands, has much increased; but facilities appear also to be afforded to the labourers of purchasing small allotments from private proprietors. In some cases the price given by the labourers for village allotments, in a good situation, has been very high. A proprietor states in evidence, that he had recently sold sixteen lots, at the rate of 208*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per acre; and that he knows that two of his labourers had bought lots of another proprietor, at the rate of 416*l.* per acre. The Surveyor-General, who is also Commissary of Population, in answer to the question whether there is a want of land on which small settlers can establish themselves by purchase, replies, "Not the least want, and they are settling everywhere rapidly. I really believe they settle nearly as fast as immigrants arrive. It is my opinion that few will remain above a year working as labourers, whilst wages remain so high."

III. IMMIGRATION.

Such being the general description of the labouring population, which has been given by the witnesses before this Committee, there remains to be considered the evidence under the third chief head of inquiry, *viz.*, the means which have been taken, and which may still further be taken, for supplying fresh labour by immigration.

1. Past Immigration.—From a return furnished by the Agent-General of Immigration, it appears that the total number of immigrants introduced into the colony at the public expense, during the two years and a half from the passing of the Immigration Ordinance, was 3,879; but the whole number of immigrants arrived during that period is estimated by the same officer at 8,000. The Harbour-Master states, that for the last twelve months the immigration has continued steadily at the rate of 300 per month.

The places from which the immigrants have come have been Europe, the United States, the older islands, the Spanish Main, and Sierra Leone. It does not appear what has been the relative supply derived from each of these sources, nor from which of them has been the greatest, even of those for whose introduction the colony has paid.

The evidence with respect to the immigrants from Europe shews that they are least suited to the colony, as being not adapted to the species of labour chiefly required, and they suffer much more than any other immigrants from the effect of the climate. The Rev. Mr. Hamilton observes, that the European immigrants have suffered severely from sickness and mortality; and Mr. Butter, the surgeon to the Colonial Hospital, states, that among the French and German immigrants the mortality has been five to one as compared with the coloured immigrants, and he thinks that Europeans will not answer as labourers, and that their introduction would be advantageous neither to themselves nor to the colony. With respect to the immigrants from other quarters, all the witnesses who speak to the point decidedly give the preference to the liberated Africans, who, moreover, seem to suffer least from the effects of the climate. Mr. Maxwell, a proprietor, "prefers them much to the labourers from the old islands," as he thinks "they are disposed to settle down more steadily." So does Mr. Darling, another proprietor, because "they are steadier workers, and more hardy in the field." The Colonial Surgeon considers them to be "a manageable and orderly set of people;" and, further, that they are "the healthiest class of people in the island, even more so than the creoles," and that no other class of labourers in the island, would have supported, as some of them within his own knowledge do, the marsh miasma to which they are continually exposed. He adds, "In general you can recognize the liberated Africans, before you see their country marks, by their stout and healthy appearance."

The American immigrants are stated to be the most anxious to amass money, and do not move about from mere caprice, but from a wish to undertake more profitable employments; and Mr. Darling, from whose evidence the above is quoted, thinks they will ultimately, as many have already done, abandon day labour on estates, and become contractors for job work, and act as middlemen. Mr. Phillips, who acts as Road Commissioner, states, that until the arrival of the Americans no parties would engage to carry on the repairs of the public roads; but these people, he adds, depend upon each other, and do the work in partnership. The mortality amongst this class is stated by Mr. Butter not to have been greater than amongst the natives or the immigrants from the older islands.

In support of this evidence may be added the opinion of the American immigrants, which

was expressed by Sir H. Macleod, in his Despatch of 8th January, 1840. He states that they "are a most valuable acquisition to this colony, not only as tending to the more rapid spread of English customs and language, but because, from their habits of industry, their correct moral conduct, and their strong religious feelings, they are well calculated to show a valuable example where it is much wanted."

2. Future Immigration.—With respect to the means of extending and continuing immigration, and the numbers of labourers which can be supplied from the different places, the evidence is far from perfect. Mr. Prescod, of Barbados, stated to the Committee that from 15,000 to 20,000 persons, taken in families, might "be advantageously spared from that island."

Lieut. Hamilton, to whose evidence we have before referred, states, that the whole population of Sierra Leone may be estimated at near 50,000, and he thinks that 10,000 could be immediately removed with the greatest advantage to themselves and to those they would leave behind; and that the withdrawal of this number, by raising wages in the colony, would cause a stream of immigration to be directed to it from the interior. He is also of opinion that a considerable number of Kroomen could be procured from Sierra Leone and elsewhere on the coast when made acquainted with the advantages awaiting them at Trinidad. There is at present a law prohibiting too great a number of them from settling in Sierra Leone, in order that they may not throw the liberated Africans out of employment. In answer to the questions of the Committee, Lieutenant Hamilton maintains his repugnance to the practice suggested to him of purchasing the freedom of labourers in the interior, for the purpose of enabling them to emigrate, because he considers that it would be virtually slave dealing, and that it would set a bad example to foreigners.

IV.—REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

The Committee having taken the evidence which has been thus briefly digested, concluded their labours with certain resolutions in place of a more formal report. The substance of them is as follows:—

That there is in the island a disproportion of fixed manufacturing capital to population, which must be ruinous to the interests of proprietors.

That this disproportion is increasing, because labourers are settling upon the land they purchase or occupy without authority.

That proprietors are now dependant on the will of the labourer in a manner which will destroy the profit of capital and be most demoralizing to the labourers.

That the only relief is to be afforded by the introduction from foreign sources, as distinguished from British colonies, of immigrant labourers.

That the supply should be drawn from Africa, and the expense be defrayed by the establishment of a Land and Emigration Fund.

CONCLUSION.

Upon the points referred to in these resolutions, we would beg leave, in conclusion, to submit a few remarks to Lord Stanley's notice, although, as the report and resolutions emanate from private and unofficial sources, we do not conceive, without being referred to the Governor, they would form a proper foundation for any general measure of a practical nature.

In the second resolution, as it stands in the Report of the Committee, it is stated that the amount of fixed capital invested in sugar estates is estimated at two millions sterling, which gives about £50 for every inhabitant,—a proportion without precedent in any country. This fact, we believe, is assumed in the Report, as we have not seen that it was stated in the evidence, nor do we know by what means it has been ascertained; but whether correct or not, we think that the high rate of wages which is freely given, and the unquestionable competition amongst employers to secure labourers sufficiently proves that labour is deficient in respect to capital.

It further would seem to be proved, that this deficiency is so great as to render the employers of labour entirely dependant on the will of the labourers as to the terms of all contracts of service and rates of wages. It does not appear, however, to be conclusively established that this is a growing evil, or that the demoralizing consequences of it to the labourers are so pernicious as they have been represented. As regards the first point, although undoubtedly squatting has extended in the neighbourhood of occupied districts, yet there has been, and continues to be, an immigration, which we should think would more than balance the withdrawal of the squatters from the labour market,—a withdrawal, moreover, which is never complete, as when pressed for money they return to work. As regards the bad effect upon the characters of the labourers, it is yet distinctly stated by the three witnesses who have spiritual charge over extensive districts in the colony, that improvement is gradually, but surely, taking place in the moral and religious character of the population; and it is the more remarkable that this should be the case since it is in spite of the practice, to which the proprietors are represented as being compelled to resort, of giving rum to their labourers, and thereby laying the foundation of the habits of inebriety which are observable amongst them. It is obvious that this practice would present the most serious obstacle to the social and moral advancement of the labouring population in any part of the world.

As regards the remaining propositions, there can be no doubt that the immigration of

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Report of the Committee. Nor is any estimate furnished of the numbers which could be annually absorbed into the community. The numbers of persons who have arrived within the last twelve months must be nearly 4000, or about one-tenth of the whole population. This, however considerable, appears to be altogether insufficient for the wants of employers, but to what extent it is so does not appear to be stated in the evidence. As regards the source from which the requisite amount of immigration is to be derived, the Committee, we observe, look exclusively to Africa, and not to the British possessions in Africa, but to Africa at large. This question, however, is one upon which we are imperfectly informed, and which involves political considerations of the highest importance upon which it would be beyond our province to enter at any length. We can only say that it appears open to obvious objections on account of its probable encouragement to internal slave trading. In the mean time a considerable amount of immigration into Trinidad is, as we have already seen, taking place from the United States, from the older islands, and from Sierra Leone.

Upon the next point, namely, the funds which may be provided for supporting a free immigration, the Governor states, in a Despatch to the Secretary of State recently referred to us, dated 18th August, 1841, that the general revenue (which is, moreover, improving) has hitherto been found sufficient for the purpose. This source is also looked to in the Immigration Ordinance, which fixes the rates at which the passage of immigrants shall be paid. The Committee say that every expense connected with it can be easily defrayed by establishing a Land and Emigration Fund. They do not, however, add how that fund is to accrue, nor is it easy to supply that deficiency in their Report, as it is not contemplated that any Crown lands could, for a considerable period, be in demand. The question, however, is one of great, and, we should think, pressing importance. As it stands at present, the revenues of the colony are pledged to defray the charge of introducing any number of immigrants whose description is in accordance with the Ordinance. And should the efforts now making to increase that number be successful in any considerable degree, it is conceivable that demands might be made upon the Colonial Treasury, beyond what it could meet. It would appear necessary, therefore, to provide for the augmentation of the funds applicable to immigration, or to place some definite limit upon the number of immigrants introduced each year at the public expense.

We have, &c.,

T. FRED. ELLIOT.

EDWARD E. VILLIERS.

(No. 18.)

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 6th December, 1841.

No. 17.

APPLICATION has been made to me to appoint an Emigration Agent for the island at Rio de Janeiro. I believe this has arisen in consequence of the arrival of two vessels with liberated Africans from the Brazils, at Demerara.

As of course these people are sent to where Her Majesty's consul or other officer may think the most advantageous for them, I cannot see the necessity of an agent, and I prefer through your Lordship to advance the claim for consideration of this island, with other colonies, authorizing the proper authorities to take up a vessel of the proper size, and provided according to Act of Parliament; the colony paying at the rate of thirty dollars for adults, fifteen for children above seven, and ten for all under that age.

If your Lordship should wish an agent appointed, I have the honour to request you would be pleased to direct the accredited minister or consul to appoint any person thought fit for the situation, on such stipend as your Lordship may fix.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

H. MACLEOD, Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley.

&c. &c. &c.

(No. 40.)

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD.

Sir,

Downing-street, February 18, 1842.

No. 18.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 18, of the 6th December last, requesting that the Island of Trinidad may be allowed to participate in the advantages already enjoyed by British Guiana in respect to the introduction into the island of liberated Africans from Rio de Janeiro; and that arrangements may be made for the appointment of an agent at Rio for conducting this service.

I transmit for your information and guidance the copy of a correspondence on the subject between the Foreign Office and this Department; and I have to suggest that you should place yourself in communication with Her Majesty's Envoy at Rio.

TRINIDAD.

C. O. to F. O. 23th
Jan. 1842.
F. O. 15th Feb.
1842.
358.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STANLEY.

Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry MacLeod,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 18.

My Lord,

Colonial Office, 25th January, 1842.

I AM directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to your Lordship, for the purpose of being laid before the Earl of Aberdeen the copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad, on the subject of the introduction into that Island of liberated Africans from Rio de Janeiro; and I am to request that you will acquaint Lord Aberdeen that Lord Stanley is of opinion that the Island of Trinidad should participate in the advantages in this respect already enjoyed by British Guiana.

Lord Stanley would be glad, therefore, if Lord Aberdeen would address a communication on this subject to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Rio. With respect to the appointment at Rio of an Agent on behalf of the Colony, Lord Stanley would suggest, that Mr. H. C. Ouseley, Attaché to Her Majesty's Legation at Rio (of whose employment in that capacity, on behalf of the Colony of British Guiana, Lord Aberdeen has already approved), should be also employed for the Island of Trinidad.

Should Lord Aberdeen see no objection to this proposal, Lord Stanley would further suggest, that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Rio should be requested to place himself in communication with Sir Henry MacLeod on the subject.

I have, &c.

The Viscount Canning.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. STEPHEN.

Encl. in No. 18.
No. 18.—6th Dec.
1841.
40.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 15th February, 1842.

WITH reference to your letter of the 25th ultimo, stating the opinion of Lord Stanley, that the Island of Trinidad should participate with British Guiana in the advantage of having negroes sent thither from Rio de Janeiro, I am directed by the Earl of Aberdeen to transmit to you, for Lord Stanley's information, the accompanying copy of a Despatch which his Lordship has addressed to Her Majesty's Envoy at Rio upon the subject in question.

I am, &c.

James Stephen, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) CANNING.

To Mr. Hamilton
S. T. No. 2.
Feb. 10, 1842.

Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 10th February, 1842.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, respecting the disposal of negroes brought into the harbour of Rio de Janeiro, in slave vessels captured by Her Majesty's cruisers, I herewith transmit to you a copy of a letter and of its enclosure, from the Colonial Office, containing suggestions as to the disposal of a portion of those negroes.

I have to desire that you will take measures for carrying into effect the suggestions of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies in this respect.

I am, &c.

Hamilton C. J. Hamilton, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ABERDEEN.

Rio de Janeiro.

Colonial Office,
Jan. 25, 1842.

(No. 8.)

No. 19.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 5th November, 1841.

PURSUANT to Lord Glenelg's circular despatch of the 1st October, 1838, I have the honour to transmit the return of questions and answers forwarded by the stipendiary magistrates of this colony, for the quarter ended 30th September.

I have, &c.

No. 19.

TRINIDAD.

Encl. in No. 19.

Enclosure No. 19.

QUESTIONS.

1. Enumerate the names of the persons who, under any order made by you either singly or jointly with any other magistrate, had been ejected from any land or buildings, in virtue of the powers in you vested by any law in force in this colony; specifying the extent of any such land, and the estimated value of any such land or buildings, with the situation thereof respectively; the names of the parties at whose instance every such order was made; the date of every such order; and the grounds on which it proceeded.

2. Enumerate the names of all persons convicted by you, singly, or by you jointly with any other justice of the peace, as idle and disorderly persons, or as rogues and vagabonds, or as incorrigible rogues, and the date of every such conviction, the name of the informer, the ground on which the conviction proceeded, and the nature and extent of the punishment.

3. Enumerate the names of all persons who with your concurrence or sanction have entered into any contracts for service, specifying the date of such contracts, the names of the parties between whom they were made, the length of time for which they were to continue in force, and the nature and amount of the services to be rendered, and of the remuneration for such services.

4. Enumerate the names of all persons against whom you have pronounced any sentence, or made any order authorizing the infliction of any punishment for the non-performance of any contract of service, stating the date of any such sentence or order, the ground on which each such sentence or order proceeded, the name of the person on the information or at the instance of whom the same was made, and the nature and amount of the punishment awarded in each case.

The first of these returns is to be dated on the 1st of August, 1838, and each succeeding return from the day next following the date of the return immediately preceding it.

ANSWERS.

District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, 1st to 31st July, 1841.

Nil.

(A true return.)

AND. DAVID, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, 1st to 31st August, 1841.

Nil.

(A true return.)

AND. DAVID, Stipendiary Justice.

[District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, 1st to 30th September, 1841.

Nil.

(A true return.)

AND. DAVID, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, from 1st to the 30th April, 1841.

1. Jean Brousselle, convicted before me, on the information on oath of Toussaint Rostant, one of the Commissioners of Roads for this district, acting under the authority granted to him by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, on the behalf of the Surveyor-General, of having without probable claim or pretence of title, entered upon, and taken possession of five quarrees of land, in the quarter of Couva, the property of Her Majesty, the Queen, within one year next before the day of the preferring the said information:—Ordered on the 23rd April, 1841, to deliver up to the said Toussaint Rostant, acting under the authority and on the behalf aforesaid, in 15 days, the quiet and peaceable possession of the said five quarrees of land, for the use and benefit of Her Majesty, in default whereof to be imprisoned in the Royal Gaol of Port of Spain for the space of 14 days.

1. Tom, convicted before me, on the information on oath of Toussaint Rostant, one of the Commissioners of Roads for this district, acting under the authority granted to him by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, on the behalf of the Surveyor-General, of having without probable claim or pretence of title, entered upon, and taken possession of two quarrees of land, in the quarter of Couva, the property of Her Majesty, the Queen, within one year next before the day of the preferring the said information:—Ordered on the 23rd April, 1841, to deliver up to the said Toussaint Rostant, acting under the authority and on the behalf aforesaid, in 15 days, the quiet and peaceable possession of the said two quarrees of land, for the use and benefit of Her Majesty, in default whereof to be imprisoned in the Royal Gaol of Port of Spain for the space of 14 days. Order obeyed.

1. Pierre Robin, convicted before me, on the information on oath of Toussaint Rostant, one of the Commissioners of Roads for this district, acting under the authority granted to him by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, on the behalf of the Surveyor-General, of having, without probable claim or pretence of title, entered upon and taken possession of five quarrees of land, in the quarter of Couva, the property of Her Majesty, the Queen, within one year next before the day of the preferring the said information:—Ordered on the 23rd April, 1841, to deliver up to the said Toussaint Rostant, acting under the authority and on the behalf aforesaid, in 15 days, the quiet and peaceable possession of the said five quarrees of land, for the use and benefit of Her Majesty, in default whereof to be imprisoned in the Royal Gaol of Port of Spain for the space of 14 days. Order obeyed.

1. Thomas Brown; convicted before me, on the information on oath of Duncan Stewart, one of the Commissioners of Roads for this district, acting under the authority granted to him by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, on the behalf of the Surveyor-General, of having, without probable claim or pretence of title, entered upon, and taken possession of one quarree of land, in the quarter of Savonetta, the property of Her Majesty, the Queen, within one year next before the day of the preferring the said information:—Ordered on the 23rd April, 1841, to deliver up to the said Duncan Stewart, acting under the authority and on the behalf aforesaid, in 15 days, the quiet and peaceable

possession of the said one quarree of land, for the use and benefit of Her Majesty, in default whereof to be imprisoned in the Royal Gaol of Port of Spain for the space of 14 days. Order obeyed.

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Nos. 2, 3, 4, Nil.

(A true Return.)

ANDREW DAVID, Stipendiary Justice.

District of St. Joseph, Trinidad, 31st July, 1841.

Nil.

Jos. AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of St. Joseph, Trinidad, 31st August, 1841.

Nil.

Jos. AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of St. Joseph, Trinidad, 30th September, 1841.

Nil.

Jos. AUG. GIUSEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Port of Spain, Trinidad, July, 1841.

Nil.

July, 1841.

JOHN JOSEPH CADIZ, S. J. P.

District of Port of Spain, Trinidad, August, 1841.

Nil.

August, 1841.

JOHN JOSEPH CADIZ, S. J. P.

District of Port of Spain, Trinidad, September, 1841.

Nil.

September, 1841.

JOHN JOSEPH CADIZ, S. J. P.

District of Naparima, Trinidad, from 1st to 31st July, 1841.

Nil.

31st July, 1841.

HENRY FARLEY, Acting S. J. P., N. D.

District of Naparima, Trinidad, from 1st to 31st August, 1841.

Nil.

31st August, 1841.

HENRY FARLEY, Acting S. J. P., N. D.

District of Naparima, Trinidad, from 1st to 30th September, 1841.

Nil.

30th September, 1841.

HENRY FARLEY, Acting S. J. P., N. D.

Southern District, Trinidad, July, 1841.

Nil.

July, 1841.

P. R. ROUSSEAU, Stipendiary Justice.

Southern District, Trinidad, August, 1841.

Nil.

August, 1841.

P. R. ROUSSEAU, Stipendiary Justice.

Southern District, Trinidad, September, 1841.

Nil.

September, 1841.

P. R. ROUSSEAU, Stipendiary Justice.

Southern District, Trinidad, 1st July, 1841.

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District of Eastern Coast, Trinidad; 31st July, 1841.

Nil.

31st July, 1841.

BENITO G. FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Eastern Coast, Trinidad, 31st August, 1841.

Nil.

31st August, 1841.

BENITO G. FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Eastern Coast, Trinidad, 30th September, 1841.

Nil.

30th September, 1841.

BENITO G. FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

(No. 14.)

No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 29th November, 1841.

No. 20.

A DEPUTATION from the Agricultural and Immigration Society of this colony, which is composed of all the most respectable inhabitants, have waited on me for the purpose of submitting the propriety of purchasing a ship of sufficient size to run between this and Sierra Leone for the conveyance of immigrants.

I called upon these gentlemen to furnish me with a statement of the expenses likely to be incurred, which I herewith enclose, and in which your Lordship will perceive that a comparison is made with the present mode of importing people from thence.

I would recommend this subject to your Lordship's favourable consideration; for although it might be rather more costly than the present system adopted, yet it would at once establish the desirable object of a direct intercourse, by which those who chose it might return to Africa, and thus give greater confidence to parties emigrating from thence to this colony, besides keeping the people at Sierra Leone aware of the true price of labour, which now varies so much.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

H. MACLEOD, Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 20.

Trinidad, 2nd November, 1841.

Encl. in No. 20.

At a Meeting of the "Immigration and Agricultural Society" held this day, the following Resolution was adopted:—

"That application be made to His Excellency, the Governor, to request his favourable consideration of the advantages likely to result by the purchase of a vessel by the Colonial Government, to be employed in the conveyance of immigrants from Sierra Leone to this colony, and thus open a constant inter-communication with Africa, a matter of great importance to this island, and so desirable, from its being recommended by Mr. Hamilton, the island agent at Sierra Leone, and found advantages in promoting emigration to Demerara and Jamaica."

(Signed)

HENRY SCOTT, Vice-Chairman.

Memorandum.

The following gentlemen were deputed to wait upon His Excellency the Governor, to present the Resolution, viz.:—

The Hon. HENRY SCOTT, *Chairman.*

„ P. A. Ganteaume,
„ John Losh,
„ Robert Dennistoun,
„ Henry Murphy,
„ T. B. Darracott,
„ Alexander Gray,
„ Rober Bushe,
„ George Ramsay.

Which I certify,

(Signed)

JOHN LOSH,
Secretary to the Immigration and Agricultural Society.

STATEMENT OF THE COST, FITTING, AND SAILING A NORTH AMERICAN
 NEW COPPER FASTENED SHIP OF 500 TONS.

TRINIDAD.

	Dollars.
First cost	18,000
Coppering, fitting up Berths, and Cooking Apparatus for 300 people, Medicine-chest, Arm-chest, Gun, and 200 Water-puncheons	5,040
First outlay, Sterling £4,800, or	23,040
Insurance 10 per cent. per annum	£ 480
Wear and tear	480
Interest on capital at 5 per cent.	240
Portage Bill—Master £15; Surgeon £10; Mate £8; Carpenter £5; 14 Seaman at 50s.	876
Stores and Provisions for Officers, Surgeon, and Crew	500
Passes at Sierra Leone at 2s. 6d. Sterling per head, £105; Clothing for the Emigrants, £160	265
Contingencies	200
Provisions calculated at 3 voyages per annum, 840 people	1,400
Sterling	£ 4,441
	Dollars.
The present cost of Importing 280 Immigrants, 3 voyages per annum, 840 People at 30 dollars	25,200
Annual outlay for the same Number by a Colonial Vessel	21,316
Balance in favour of the Colonial Vessel per annum	3,884

It is thus calculated that with reference to the 10 per cent. for wear and tear, the vessel and fitting will be a clear gain to the colony in three years, besides allowing interest on the capital; and a good vessel, not new, might be got at 10 per cent. per year of her age, under this calculation; the provisions and stores not used on one voyage, would come in also for the next; return passengers are not calculated.

(Signed)

J. B. DARRACOTT,
 HENRY SCOTT,
 ROBERT BUSHE,

JOHN LOSH,
 ROB. DENNISTOUN,
 P. P. GANTEAUME.

5th November, 1841.

(No. 35.)

No. 21.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY
 MACLEOD.

Sir,

Downing-street, 1st February, 1842.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 14, of the 29th November, stating that a deputation from the Agricultural and Immigration Society of Trinidad had submitted to you the propriety of purchasing a ship of sufficient size to run between that colony and Sierra Leone, for the conveyance of immigrants, and you enclose a statement, furnished by them, of the expenses likely to be incurred for this service.

No. 21.

I am not indisposed to admit that it might be desirable to establish a direct communication between the colonies of Sierra Leone and Trinidad, but before any step of this kind is taken, I think it would be right to have a little further experience of the efficacy of the present system, and especially in regard to the probable supply of emigrants from Africa.

The statement furnished by the deputation of the Agricultural and Immigration Society is not sufficient to enable Her Majesty's Government to decide on the propriety of sanctioning their proposal, for the purchase of a vessel by the Colonial Government. The question should be referred to a committee of the council of your government for a detailed examination and report, and when their report has been submitted to the council, I shall be prepared to consider any recommendations on the subject which you may have to communicate to me from that body.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

STANLEY.

Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry MacLeod,
 &c. &c. &c.

TRINIDAD. (No. 28.)

No. 22.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD to Lord STANLEY, dated Trinidad, 31st December, 1841.

No. 22.

THE revenue of the island has considerably increased under those heads which most manifest a state of prosperity.

In 1839 the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ad valorem import duties amounted to 8521*l.*; in 1840, to 11,443*l.*; and in 1841, to 11,445*l.*

The duties collected under Imperial Acts exhibit a similar increase; from 9,178*l.*, the amount collected by the Customs' Department in 1838, they sprung up in 1839 to 17,430*l.*; in 1840, they rose to 19,504*l.*; and in the present year to 20,083*l.* But it is impossible to place this marked improvement altogether to the credit of an increased consumption.

It arose in 1839 from the emancipation, and consequent payment of money wages, and has since been maintained in some measure to the influx of labourers, who have been drawn to Trinidad by the encouragement given to them to immigrate and settle here; but I am disposed to attribute a great deal of it to an increased vigilance in the collection of the customs duties, together with a vast deal of overtrading; although this excess of commercial speculation has been to some extent in articles of British manufacture upon which no duty is payable, nevertheless your Lordship will perceive that the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ad valorem duties on exports, an item which must always be the best test of our thriving condition here, amounted, in 1839, to 14,819*l.*; in 1840, to 15,189*l.*; and has increased in the present year, to 17,401*l.* At this time, and in reference, particularly to the recent financial discussions at home, greater stress must not, however, be laid upon these latter facts than they deserve, for it is impossible to deny that the produce of the island has been maintained at its previous extent solely by an expense in the cultivation of estates, particularly in the primary article of labour, which cannot be continued.

In the expenditure for the three preceding years there has been an increase, not, however, in proportion to the increase of the revenue. I am anxious to have it understood, however, that whilst our expenditure has been very much reduced latterly in the department of police, and by proper surveillance in all those minor items which are generally classed under the head of government contingencies, there have been several very heavy draughts made on the colonial treasury for the extensive alterations and improvements which I have made in the Royal Gaol; for the fitting-up and establishing an hospital; grants in aid of the erection of churches; in repairs to the wharfs and quays; and for other public services of a permanent and substantial character. The answers which have been given to the different questions under the head of gaols will, when compared with those of previous years, enable your Lordship to form some idea of the alterations which have been recently made in that department. The accommodations, however, which we now possess in the Royal Gaol, in Port of Spain, are scarcely commensurate with the rapid increase of the population; and in order to relieve it from some of the numerous committals that are made to it from the country, sometimes from the further extremities of the island, I am now engaged in inquiring and considering in what part of the rural districts it would be most proper to have good and commodious places of confinement erected. When I have fully ascertained how the wants of the country would, in this respect, be best satisfied, I shall have occasion to bring the subject under your Lordship's consideration.

The hospital, which has been another large item, has been a measure of incalculable benefit to this community; and I look with great pleasure to this establishment, and to the present condition of the Royal Gaol.

On my arrival in this colony there was no hospital, and I found the gaol in the most disgraceful condition; not only was there no proper discipline, but there was no classification, and the convicted felon mixed with the untried prisoner and debtors; the sexes only separated at night. Strict and wholesome discipline is now established; classification adopted; each prisoner confined in a separate cell; work-stalls established, and so constructed as not to permit communication, and the strictest attention paid to the cleanliness and rules of the establishment.

The civil establishment of the colony has undergone very little change during the two past years, save under the head of police, in which an entire separation between its judicial and administrative functions has been effected; and the alterations have been made at a considerable reduction of the former expenditure for the same service.

The item of education is one which the increase of our population will require us immediately to revise and extend. The colony at present contributes to the salaries of teachers to twenty-three schools.

TRINIDAD.

I regret very much that it has not been in my power to have had inserted in the present Blue Book a more recent or correct census ; but the ordinance which I had the honour to transmit with my despatch of the 23rd of October, No. 4, will enable me, I hope, to remedy this defect in the Blue Book for 1842.

(No. 36.)

No. 23.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor SIR HENRY MACLEOD to LORD STANLEY.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 18th January, 1842.

PURSUANT to Lord Glenelg's Circular Despatch of the 1st October, 1838, I have the honour to transmit the return therein called for, of questions and answers forwarded by the Stipendiary Magistrates of this colony, for the quarter ending the 31st December, 1841.

No. 23.
7.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

HENRY MACLEOD.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 23.

QUESTIONS.

1. Enumerate the names of the persons who, under any order made by you either singly or jointly with any other magistrate, had been ejected from any land or buildings, in virtue of the powers in you vested by any law in force in this colony ; specifying the extent of any such land, and the estimated value of any such land or buildings, with the situation thereof respectively ; the names of the parties at whose instance every such order was made ; the date of every such order ; and the grounds on which it proceeded.

Encl. in No. 23.

2. Enumerate the names of all persons convicted by you, singly, or by you jointly with any other justice of the peace, as idle and disorderly persons, or as rogues and vagabonds, or as incorrigible rogues, and the date of every such conviction, the name of the informer, the ground on which the conviction proceeded, and the nature and extent of the punishment.

3. Enumerate the names of all persons who with your concurrence or sanction have entered into any contracts for service, specifying the date of such contracts, the names of the parties between whom they were made, the length of time for which they were to continue in force, and the nature and amount of the services to be rendered, and of the remuneration for such services.

4. Enumerate the names of all persons against whom you have pronounced any sentence, or made any order authorizing the infliction of any punishment for the non-performance of any contract of service, stating the date of any such sentence or order, the ground on which each such sentence or order proceeded, the name of the person on the information or at the instance of whom the same was made, and the nature and amount of the punishment awarded in each case.

The first of these returns is to be dated on the 1st of August, 1838, and each succeeding return from the day next following the date of the return immediately preceding it.

ANSWERS.

District of Naparima, Trinidad, 1st to 30th October, 1841.

Nil.

October 30th, 1841.

HENRY FARLEY, Acting S. J., N. D.

District of Naparima, Trinidad, 1st to 30th November, 1841.

Nil.

November 30th, 1841.

HENRY FARLEY, Acting S. J., N. D.

District of Naparima, Trinidad, 1st to 31st December, 1841.

Nil.

December 31st, 1841.

HENRY FARLEY, Acting S. J., N. D.

R

TRINIDAD.**District of Port of Spain and Western, Trinidad, October, 1841.**

October, 1841. Nil. JOHN JOSEPH CADIZ, S. J. P.

District of Port of Spain and Western, Trinidad, November, 1841.

November, 1841. Nil. JOHN JOSEPH CADIZ, S. J. P.

District of Port of Spain and Western, Trinidad, December, 1841.

December, 1841. Nil. JOHN JOSEPH CADIZ, S. J. P.

District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, 1st to 31st October, 1841.

31st October, 1841. Nil. ANDREW DAVID, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, 1st to 30th November, 1841.

30th November, 1841. Nil. ANDREW DAVID, Stipendiary Justice.

District of Carapichaima, Trinidad, 1st to 31st December, 1841.

31st December, 1841. Nil. ANDREW DAVID, Stipendiary Justice.

Southern District of Police, Trinidad, October, 1841.

October, 1841. Nil. P. R. ROUSSEAU, Stipendiary Justice.

Southern District, Trinidad, November, 1841.

November, 1841. Nil. P. R. ROUSSEAU, Stipendiary Justice.

Southern District, Trinidad, December, 1841.

December, 1841. Nil. P. R. ROUSSEAU, Stipendiary Justice.

District of St. Joseph, Trinidad, 31st October, 1841.

October, 1841. Nil. JOSEPH AUG. GUISEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of St. Joseph, Trinidad, 30th November, 1841.

November, 1841. Nil. JOSEPH AUG. GUISEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

District of St. Joseph, Trinidad, 31st December, 1841.

December, 1841. Nil. JOSEPH AUG. GUISEPPI, Stipendiary Justice.

Eastern District of Police, Trinidad, from 1st to 31st October, 1841.

1st November, 1841. Nil. BENITO G. FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

Eastern District of Police, Trinidad, from 1st to 30th November, 1841.

TRINIDAD.

Nil.

1st December, 1841.

BENITO G. FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

Eastern District of Police, Trinidad, from 1st to 31st December, 1841.

Nil.

3rd January, 1842.

BENITO G. FERNANDEZ, Stipendiary Justice.

(No. 37.)

No. 24.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 27th January, 1842.

No. 24.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch, dated the 18th November, acknowledging the receipt of mine of the 17th and 28th August last, relating to the reduction in the rate of wages to labourers in this colony, and transmitting the copy of one addressed to the officer administering the government at Sierra Leone, conveying your Lordship's instructions in consequence.

I can assure your Lordship that no one has considered this sudden reduction, as fraught with danger to the continuance of emigration from Sierra Leone, more than myself; but I apprehend it is as impossible to fix a permanent rate of wages in the West Indies as in any other country, perhaps more so, when it is considered that the staple produce combines both agriculture and manufacture.

Your Lordship remarks that I have not stated what will be the condition of those who have arrived from Sierra Leone on the faith of the original terms; and, further, that you look to me to enforce the fulfilment of them in their case.

Your Lordship is aware that no contracts made previous to their landing would have been binding; and in very few instances would the labourers enter into any agreement, preferring to work by the day, so as to take advantage of any increased offer from other parties.

Accordingly, and prior to any alteration in wages or allowances, they had generally availed themselves of this; and in the great competition for labour, few of these people are now to be found with the planters to whom they were originally engaged, hence both parties have become free agents; so that I really do not see how these proprietors can be held more responsible for any particular terms than the labourer for having left his service to engage where he thought more advantageous ones were offered.

Connected with this subject, a vessel has just arrived from Sierra Leone, but without immigrants. The only information I can collect, in the absence of any official intelligence of the cause of this unexpected failure is, that the agent for Trinidad had quitted Sierra Leone suddenly, a few days after his arrival; and that the people stated that no delegates from the original emigrants, as promised by that person, had been sent from the colony.

It is my intention immediately to visit the districts where these people are located, and to ascertain what promises upon this head were made to them, and to inquire personally into their present circumstances, the result of which I shall have the honour to report to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

H. MACLEOD, Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,

&c. &c. &c.

(No. 50.)

No. 25.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Lieutenant-Governor Sir HENRY MACLEOD.

Sir,

Downing-street, 22nd March, 1842.

No. 25.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 37, of the 27th January, relative to the reduction in the rate of wages to labourers in Trinidad, who had emigrated from Sierra Leone on a representation as to wages, made to them by the agent for the Government of Trinidad.

TRINIDAD.

You observe that no contracts made previous to their landing would have been binding; and that in very few instances would the labourers enter into any agreement, preferring to work by the day, so as to take advantage of any increased offer from other parties.

This is not, however, a question of private agreements between labourers and their employers. I apprehend that if the wages which the authorized agent of the Colonial Government undertook that the emigrants should receive cannot be obtained, the colonial funds are pledged to restore the immigrant to the state in which he was found; that is, if he is dissatisfied with his condition on that account, to send him back to Sierra Leone.

I do not mean to assert that if the immigrant is incorrigibly idle he would be authorized to claim full wages for half or imperfect work, in such cases the governor must have an equitable jurisdiction, but he must also be the protector of the labourer. An honest, industrious immigrant, sent over by the government agent, and willing to perform a fair day's work for the stipulated wages, has a right to obtain them, or, in default, to be sent home free of expense.

The agent for the colony is responsible for the supply of fit emigrants, if therefore, he sends to Trinidad such as are incapable of work, the blame for so doing must be thrown upon him.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

STANLEY.

Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry MacLeod,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. L U C I A.

SCHEDULE.

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P A P E R S
RELATIVE TO
S T. L U C I A.

ST. LUCIA.

(No. 11.)

No. 1.

**COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Bart.,
to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.**

My Lord, Government House, Barbados, February 23, 1841.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a letter from Lieutenant-colonel Everard, administering the Government of St. Lucia, and of reports of the special magistrates of that island, for the month of January last.

No. 1.

10 Feb. 1841.
No. 198.
With 5 Reports.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Governor.**

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 198.)

Enclosure in No. 1.

Sir,

St. Lucia, February 10, 1841.

Encl. in No. 1.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, copies of the reports of the special justices for the month of January.

Nos. 1 to 5.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

His Excellency Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

M. EVERARD, Lieutenant-Colonel,
administering the Government.

(True Copy.)

E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Governor.

No. 1.

Sir,

Castries, February 2, 1841.

IN forwarding my report as special justice of the First District for the month of January I have the honour to state that there has been no change since my last report. The crop is commenced everywhere; the canes took well, and there is every prospect of an abundant crop.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

G. LAFFITTE, Special Justice, First District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 2.

Sir

Gros Islet, Second District, February 3, 1841.

IN the Second District there are 13 sugar estates, 12 of which are in a high state of cultivation. On all of these the "taking off" the crop is proceeding briskly, and I hear few or no complaints of a scarcity of labourers. The scale of wages paid for ordinary and extra labour is higher in this than in the Fifth District, from which I have been lately removed.

The supply of ground provisions is abundant; the season is peculiarly favourable, and the canes planted for the year 1842 progressing rapidly.

Since the revision of the local ordinance, providing relief for the poor, and the establishment of the asylum for the reception of the destitute, only nine warrants have been granted to applicants resident in this district; of those two are for admission into the asylum, the remaining seven according a limited out-door relief.

At a court held on the 15th ultimo, there were few cases for trial: one a charge of assault

S 2

ST. LUCIA

dismissed, not proven; and two labourers, or rather vagrants, on an accusation of theft, both, of whom were committed for trial before the criminal court.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES V. DRYSDALE, Special Justice, Second District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 3.

Sir,

Soufrière, February 8, 1841.

I AM happy on being able to report favourably of the general state of the Third District for the month of January.

There has not been occasion to hold a court of petit sessions during the month; the labourers, as a body, are working in an orderly and cheerful manner; although, as usual, a few isolated cases of misunderstanding have occurred, but which I have never failed to arrange amicably. The sugar crop is now fairly commenced, and although dry weather somewhat damped the spirits of the proprietors in the early part of the month, the late rains have renewed their hopes. In fact, the young plantations never promised better, and I am happy to add, that the coffee proprietors bid fair to make up for last year's deficiency.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

CHARLES BENNETT, Special Justice, Third District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 4.

Sir,

Vieux Fort, St. Lucia, February 1, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that in the Fourth District no occurrence of import-ance affecting the labouring population has taken place during [the previous month. My arrival in this district is so recent, and the duties devolving on me have been so numerous that I am unable, at this date, to make to his Excellency such a Report as to the state of affairs as I deem necessary and proper. I, however, trust and believe that the experience of another month will render me perfectly competent to do so. In the mean time, I beg to state, that I have repeatedly on duty visited every part of the district, have had few complaints, either from employers or employed, and have effected numerous arrangements between proprietors and agricultural labourers for the cultivation of [canes in halves. At the particular instance of the labourers I have myself personally in every case drawn out the agreements in duplicate, according to the form subjoined. On the merits of this system I may find it necessary to dilate at greater length in my next Report.

The rate of wages is, I believe, lower in this district than in any other of the colony, two livres only per diem being given on estates to each effective labourer. Something extra is of course allowed in crop time, but circumstances vary the amount; medical attendance is not furnished by the proprietors.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

A. C. COLQUHOUN, Special Justice, Fourth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen,
&c. &c. &c.

FORM of Agreement between proprietors and labourers, for the cultivation of canes in halves.

[Date.] It is agreed upon between the undersigned, A. B., proprietor of estate, on the one part, and C. D., labourer, of the other part, that the said C. D. shall cultivate in canes certain lands on estate, as shall be pointed out by the said A. B. more particularly; the canes when ripe to be cut, carried to, and manufactured into sugar at the works of estate; the expense of such cutting, carriage, and manufacture, to be deducted from the gross proceeds of the sugar, after which deduction, the remaining balance to be equally divided between the proprietor of estate, and the said C. D., whose signatures are affixed below.

(Signed)

A. B.

C. D.

I hereby certify that the foregoing agreement was duly executed before me, after having been fully explained to the parties.

A. C. C., Special Justice.

(True Copies.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 5.

ST. LUCIA.

Sir,

Vieux Fort, February 1, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that agreeably to his Excellency's instructions, I have taken charge of the Fifth District, visited all the estates therein situated, and that tranquillity reigns throughout.

No cases were brought before the Court of Petty Sessions, or the special justice individually during the month of January.

The rates of wages are as follows :—

Quarter of Micond—

Labourers of 1st class, 3 livres per day.

„ 2d class, 2 livres, 10 sols per day.

„ 3d class, 2 livres per day.

Quarters of Praslin and Dennery—

Labourers of 1st class, 4 livres per day.

„ 2d class, 3 livres per day,

and when employed during crop time, one livre additional is allowed for extra work per day.

Medical attendance is allowed at the expense of the proprietor to the labourers employed on the Canelle and Troumassée estates.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JAMES JOHNSTON, Special Justice, Fifth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

(No. 20.)

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Bart.
to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbados, March 24, 1841.

No. 2.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon, administering the Government of Lucia, and of reports of the special magistrates of that island for the month of February last.

5 March, 1841.

No. 8.

5.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(No. 8.)

Enclosure in No. 2.

Sir,

St. Lucia, March 15, 1841.

Encl. in No. 2.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, copies of the reports of the stipendiary magistrates for the month of February.

Nos. 1 to 5.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

G. GRAYDON, Lieutenant-colonel
administering the Government.

His Excellency Sir E. J. M. MACGREGOR, Bart.,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(True Copy.)

E. J. M. MACGREGOR, Governor.

No. 1.

Sir,

Castries, March 2, 1841.

IN forwarding my report, as special justice of the First District, for the month of February, I have the honour to state that the crop on the respective estates is generally advanced, and in this district there are sufficient labourers to the demand; in all other respects there has been no change since last month.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

G. LAFFITTE, Special Justice, First District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Colonial Secretary,

&c.

&c.

&c.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 2.

Sir,

Gros Islet, Second District, March 2, 1841.

THE report of this district for the month of February, which I have now the honour to submit, presents no topic of marked interest.

Seven warrants for limited out-door relief from the poor fund, have been granted during the month, making a total number of 14 paupers of this district receiving pecuniary relief from the colony, at the very moderate expense of 56 livres per week.

Want of rain is a general complaint throughout the quarter, and on one or two estates the progress of sugar making has been temporarily arrested, from the scanty supply of water for the working of the mills.

A few occasional morning showers have aided to sustain the struggling vegetation of the young canes, which are suffering much from the drought.

Ground provisions continue abundant, and consequently cheap.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

J. V. DRYSDALE, Special Justice, Second District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 3.

Sir,

Soufrière, March 8, 1841.

I AM happy in being enabled to report favourably of the Third District for the month of February instant. The labourers are working very steadily, and the sugar estates are getting on pretty fairly with their crops. The coffee properties, where at this season little is doing, have shown a most luxuriant blossom, and have not for many seasons given such good promise for the forthcoming harvest. There has not been occasion to hold a court of "Petty Sessions" during the month. I regret, however, to say that, as justice of the peace, I have been compelled to punish three labourers for a wanton theft of ground provisions, and have had some trouble with the Piroguemen men of this town. The average rate of wages is now four bits (1s. 3d. sterling) per diem for able-bodied persons.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

CHARLES BENNETT, Stipendiary Magistrate, Third District,

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Colonial Secretary,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 4.

Sir,

Vieux Fort, Saint Lucia, March 1, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that a peaceable and prosperous state of agricultural affairs, similar to that reported to you in my official communication of 1st ultimo, has prevailed in this district, during the month just ended. Although, as then stated by me, the wages given to the labouring population are less in amount than those accorded by the proprietors and employers in other districts, yet, I have in no instance found this deficiency to affect materially that harmony and proper feeling which should ever actuate the one party towards the other. On the part of the proprietors, I may say that the diminished rate of wages which they give, is not attributable to any want of liberality, but is compulsory on them from the impoverished and unproductive nature of the soil in this district, which renders them unable to compete with other employers more favourably located. On the part of the labourers, I am inclined to think that they are actuated in their general steadiness and good conduct as much by the kindly feeling evinced towards them, with few exceptions, by their employers, as by any natal ties or ancient recollections binding them to the soil. And I may, without presumption, predict that when things have settled down, as they are now progressively doing, ample proof will be afforded that emancipation has multiplied, in this district, the amount of productive labour.

An excellent practice prevails here, worthy of adoption, in my opinion, not only in other districts of this colony, but also in other islands,—I allude to the cultivation of canes in halves between proprietors and labourers, the expense of manufacture being deducted from the gross proceeds, and the remaining balance equally divided between the contracting parties.

To this quarter in particular such a system is peculiarly adapted, as the soil is such that provisions, excepting manioc, are far from abundant, and, even if they were so, there is no market near to ensure their profitable disposal. But, when it is considered that the cultivation of one acre of canes is a far more simple undertaking than the cultivation of an acre of manioc, whilst the revenue to be derived from the former is incalculably beyond what could be hoped for from the latter, my meaning will, I trust, be obvious, and the advantages of such a system granted. It has also the good effect of teaching the labourers the paramount importance and necessity of cane cultivation, and must contribute, in no small degree, to attach them to the soil, and will ensure to proprietors the certainty of continuous labour, a want of

which I understand to be the prevailing complaint in Jamaica and some other colonies. It ought to be understood, that the cultivation I speak of is kept up by the labourers only on Saturdays, and at such hours as they may not be engaged in carrying on the usual routine work of the estates where they are located.

There are also numbers of able-bodied labourers, residing in the villages and settlements contiguous to sugar estates, who never attempted cane cultivation during the terms of slavery or apprenticeship, but who now cultivate largely on the plan above described, and this is a germ which will, I hope, ere long bring forth good fruit.

I have had to settle not a few trivial disputes and misunderstandings between labourers themselves, incidental to a class naturally so irritable, jealous, and susceptible; these are blemishes, but I am equally ready to bear my testimony to the many virtues which constitute the bright side of their character.

In such cases as have come before me between employers and labourers I have generally been able, by advice and conciliation, to effect a mutual understanding without having recourse to law; the only exception is the case, a synopsis of which is subjoined. On it I did not sit alone, but was associated with two magistrates—one special the other local. I notice the case more particularly, in consequence of the decision come to by the Court of Petty Sessions having been quashed *in toto* by his Honour the Chief Justice, on appeal brought before the Royal Court, for the following reasons, viz.:—that the person complained of was a mere agent and not responsible for putting into execution the illegal orders of his employers, who should have been proceeded against; and also, forasmuch as the Court of Petty Sessions gave a criminal judgment in a civil action. There can be no doubt that the view taken of the law by his Honour the Chief Justice is correct; and I merely mention the circumstances to point out the hardship of the case, in which a man who had committed a most illegal and oppressive act escaped with impunity because the Order in Council gives the magistrates no discretionary power in the disposal of the penalty, but directs that it shall be paid to the party complaining in shape of compensation. Had the Court of Petty Sessions given the penalty to the complainant no appeal could have been brought; but, as the complainant had suffered no loss in property, this was not done, lest it might tempt other ignorant people to be forward in bringing complaints. But to mark our sense of the illegality and oppressive nature of the offence, we inflicted on the defendant a penalty of ten dollars, and, as it appears, improperly, but with the best intentions, directed that it should be paid to the colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. COLQUHOUN, Special Justice, Fourth District.
The Hon. H. H. Breen, Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

Court of Petty Sessions held at Vieux Fort, February 2, 1841, before Special Justices Colquhoun and Bennett, and Dremil, J.P.

Marie Claire, a labourer on River Doree Estate, *versus* John Inglis, overseer on the same property, for illegal ejection, and throwing all her effects and furniture on the public road.

The complaint was clearly proved by witnesses and the admission of the defendant; who stated, however, that he was merely obeying the orders of his employer. It was clearly explained to him that no orders of his employer could justify him in the performance of an illegal action, and he was condemned to pay to the colony a fine of ten dollars.

The judgment was appealed from, and reversed by the Royal Court.

(True Copies.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 5.

Sir,

Vieux Fort, March 2, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that no case was brought for adjudication before the Court of Petty Sessions, nor was any complaint preferred before me in the Fifth District, during the month of February.

No change has taken place since my last report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. JOHNSON, Special Justice, Fifth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

(No. 26.)

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Bart.,
to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

ST. LUCIA.

20 April, 1841.

No. 18.

5.

Despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon, together with reports from the special magistrates of St. Lucia for the month of March last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR**, Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Encl. in No. 3.

Nos 1 to 5.

Sir,

St. Lucia, April 20, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, copies of the reports of the stipendiary magistrates for the month of March.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE GRAYDON, Lieutenant-Colonel,
administering the Government.

His Excellency Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Governor.

No. 1.

Sir,

Special Justices' Office, Castries, April 3, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my report as special justice, First District, for the month of March. The crop is advancing rapidly, and yielding a much larger return than was even anticipated; and during the last fortnight there have been some refreshing showers highly beneficial to the young canes for next year's crop.

I have also the honour to state, for his Excellency's information, that during the past month I have held two coroner's inquests; the first on a male child of about two years old, on which the jury found a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown. I immediately forwarded the depositions to the attorney-general; and, since then, four persons have been arrested and lodged in gaol, suspected of being parties concerned in the murder. It is generally supposed that this unfortunate infant has been murdered for the purpose of the abominable and superstitious practice of sorcery, his private and other parts of his person having been removed.

In the other inquest the jury found a verdict of natural death.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

G. LAFFITTE, Special Justice, First District.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 2.

Sir,

Gros Islet, Second District, April 2, 1841.

IN the absence of any particular judicial report for the month of March, I beg leave to submit, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, a few facts tending to show the present advanced state of cultivation in the colony compared with the past year, as also to prove that the Act of Emancipation has been a source of advantage and benefit, as well to the landed proprietor as to the labourer who tills the soil.

I may premise that the observations made are mainly directed to the state of the Second District, although I have every reason to believe the same are applicable to almost every other district of the island.

1st. The labourer has become more industrious, and continued labour is more frequent this season than it was the last year.

2nd. The labourer appreciates the advantages of freedom, and endeavours to secure his independence by the purchase of a few acres of land (or hires the same at an annual lease) whereon he may establish himself and family, free from those restrictions and obligations imposed on or expected from the occupants of the huts on estates. He has lost much of that prejudice and suspicion formerly so attached to his character, and now feels confident in his freedom, and conscious of his rights under the protection and support of the magistrates, to whom he always resorts in cases of doubt or oppression for counsel or defence.

3rd. The general conduct of the labouring class has improved, crime has diminished, and petty misdemeanours are by no means of as frequent occurrence as formerly.

4th. Marriage amongst the emancipated labourers is more resorted to, and more attention is paid to the early and regular baptism of their children.

5th. Owing to the high wages given to the labourer, and the facility with which ground provisions of every description are raised, many have it in their power to amass little fortunes; and I am aware of one instance in this district of a labourer who, by his own industry alone, has realized a sum above three hundred pounds sterling. In fact, it is no uncommon sight to

see well-behaved labourers riding to town on horses, their own property, while the milch cow and the fatted pig are inseparable from the dwelling of the steady industrious labourer.

6th. The education of their children has not been altogether overlooked, although it is to be regretted that the means of education are not more within their reach, the schools of the Mico Charity being the only public places of instruction, and these often established at a considerable distance.

These are a few traits of the moral advancement which has been effected by the system of free labour; and the most casual observer cannot have failed to notice the physical improvement in the personal dress and deportment, and general domestic comfort of the independent labourer since the month of August, 1838.

The eye of the traveller is no longer offended by the aspect of the wretched victim of disease and misery, clothed in the garb of an abandoned slave, but the better feelings of our nature are gratified by the pleasing sight of the well-dressed, contented, and grateful labourer, contributing his quota of daily toil for the benefit of all, and for his own elevation, as a new-born freeman.

The ultimate gain of the proprietor of the soil as a consequence of the substitution of free in lieu of slave labour, has ever been lost sight of or undervalued, and the temporary deprivation of continued labour, contingent on the accomplishment of a measure of such magnitude, was exaggerated and magnified into an importance which it never truly did possess.

The following facts may serve to convince that the proprietor has not suffered greatly by the measure of emancipation, for it appears that cultivation of the staple product of the island, instead of receding, has advanced, while the expense of production (on some estates) is in a great measure defrayed by a revenue from a source hitherto unavailable. I allude to the renting of lots of land to the labourers, a plan certainly at the option of all, from the immense tracts of waste land attached to the several properties.

One proprietor in this district so hires upwards of six hundred acres to labourers and other settlers, receiving an annual rental of more than four hundred pounds sterling, while the same system is pretty generally adopted to a greater or less extent in the several quarters of the island.

Many planters were averse to, and many objections were urged against the system of hiring out the waste lands to the labourers, lest it should induce them to abandon the cultivation of the cane altogether; but experience has proved that it has not had this dreaded effect, and that it is to the advantage of continued and extensive cultivation of the large sugar estates that the labourers should be encouraged to locate in their vicinity.

Many proprietors also, to encourage good labourers, and induce them to settle in their neighbourhood, have adopted the expedient of working considerable fields of canes in shares with one or more such labourers, the labourer undertaking to cultivate in canes and keep in proper cultivation a certain quantity of land at his own individual cost, the proprietor receiving as his free share from one-half to two-thirds of the sugar made, as the case may be. Here then is another gain or revenue which never existed in the days of slavery, the planter being no longer required by law to provide for the clothing, lodging, and medical attendance of his labourers, payment of capitation taxes, &c.

That the cultivation of the cane has not diminished is evident on the face of every estate, some of them having augmented considerably their cane-fields, as in the case of the Union, Corinthe, and Choc estates of this district, where from 40 to 60 acres have been added to the cultivated land since the abolition of slavery.

The present crop is so advanced as in some instances already to equal the crop of last year, while on all the estates there is every expectation as to its surpassing by fully one half the amount of produce made last season.

The crop of the Choc estate last year amounted to 78 large hogsheads; at this date 50 have been already manufactured.

On the Union estate, the crop of last year was 84 large hogsheads; they have now made upwards of 60.

The crop made last year on the Corinthe estate was 55 hogsheads; at this date there is already made above 60, while it is confidently anticipated that this is no more than half crop.

At least a third more would have been now manufactured had not the operations of the planter been suspended, owing to the continuance of very dry weather, and the consequent inability to work the water-mills.

On other estates throughout the district the same is the case, as to the actual manufacture and prospect of the crop.

On the 1st April, 1840, there had been shipped 198 hogsheads 13 tierces 67 barrels; the same date this year there have been shipped 718 hogsheads 13 tierces 199 barrels; making a difference in favour of this season of no less than 520 hogsheads 3 tierces 132 barrels; while there is now in port four large vessels with considerable portion of their homeward cargo already on board.

In addition to which, it must be stated that at this moment there is a very large quantity of produce on the estates which has not been brought from the country, owing to the difficulty of transport, the number of small coasting vessels being too few for the demand; and, indeed, several of the best estates in the island not having as yet embarked a single hogshead.

On a review of the facts here detailed, I respectfully venture to express a hope that his Excellency Colonel Graydon may coincide with me in considering the present aspect of the agricultural interests of the island as favourable, and the future prospects of both employer and labourer as encouraging.

I have the honour to inform his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor that a coroner's

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ST. LUCIA.

inquest was held in this district on the 17th of March, on view of the body of a woman of colour named Clair, when a verdict of suicide by poisoning was rendered by the jury.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

J. V. DRYSDALE, Special Justice, Second District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,

&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk Government Office.

(Extract.)

No. 3.

Sir,

Soufrière, April 10, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that during the month of March the following cases were brought before the Court of Petit Sessions for the Third District.

Julie (female labourer) *versus* René Boucher.—In this case defendant, upon the clearest testimony, was convicted of striking Julie and of refusing to pay a month's wages due to Julie, as labourer on defendant's estate, and was consequently sentenced to pay a fine of 40 livres for the assault, and to pay the wages due to Julie.

Réné Boucher *versus* Yoyo.—The plaintiff in this case making oath that he dreaded personal injury and injury to his property, at the hands of the defendant, the latter was ordered to find bail to keep the peace towards plaintiff and all other subjects of Her Majesty.

Léandre *versus* René de Bernard.—This was a question respecting the produce of a cow, given by defendant to plaintiff to take care of,—half profits of the animal to be plaintiff's reward. This case was referred by the Court to arbitration.

Godfrey Cauvin *versus* Jean Diamond.—In this affair, as defendant had not at all fulfilled the conditions he made with G. Cauvin, on taking a carrée of land from the latter, the Court granted a writ of ejectment.

Jean Louis Birmingham *versus* Le Curieux Chalon.—In this case the majority of the Court referred the plaintiff to a superior tribunal, deeming the case beyond the competence of the Court of Petit Sessions.

Guy de Mareil *versus* Louisay.—A writ of ejectment was granted by the Court in this case, inasmuch as the defendant was convicted of habitually working on other estates than plaintiff's.

* * * * *

With respect to the case of Jean Louis Birmingham *versus* Le Curieux Chalon, I differed totally from my two colleagues on the Bench. The facts of the case are these:—Birmingham, who is a negro emigrant from Dominica, has for the last two years been doing work of all kinds on the different estates in this part of the island, contracted lately with Mr. Chalon to work on the Jalousie estate. He built on this estate a mogass house, and holed and planted a certain quantity of land, for which he claimed about 200 dollars. He had received a certain sum on account, and the balance, which Birmingham alleged to be about 80 dollars, was the subject of dispute. Mr. Chalon was quite as anxious as Jean Louis to have the matter settled, and both parties appeared before the Court. My colleagues were of opinion that the matter was too great for the Court of Petty Sessions to decide upon, and it was referred to the superior Court. Now, Sir, I am very anxious to bring this case to the notice of his Excellency Colonel Graydon, inasmuch as, should the opinion of my two colleagues in this affair be correct, viz., that the Court of Petty Sessions has not power to adjudicate between employer and labourer in cases where the amount in dispute exceeds the value of a doubloon, immense inconvenience and loss will ensue to the labouring classes. Without entering into the merits of Birmingham's particular case, the reference to the Superior Court of Castries amounts nearly to a prohibition of his claim; he is an ignorant and uneducated man, and has neither time nor money to carry his affair to Castries. I therefore humbly, but earnestly, beg his Excellency's directions as to the competency of the Court of Petit Sessions in such like cases.

I am happy in being able to report that the work on the sugar estates in this district has been going on very fairly this month, and that the coffee properties for many years have not shown so good a promise for the coming crop.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

CHARLES BENNETT, Special Justice, Third District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Colonial Secretary,

&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 4.

Sir,

Vieux Fort, St. Lucia, April 1, 1841.

SINCE the date of my last official report, which I had the honour to address to you for the information of his Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon, nothing calling for particular comment has occurred in this district. It cannot prove otherwise than satisfactory to his Excel-

lency to learn that the same orderly and industrious deportment on the part of the agricultural labourers, and good understanding between them and their employers, which I described as existing at the period of my previous report, has since then continued, and still continues, undisturbed.

On some estates during the past month there have been deviations from the rates of wages, detailed in my report for the month of January. The causes of this can be traced to the circumstance that the month of March is by far the best adapted during the season of crop time to the manufacture of sugar, the weather being more equable, and the "yielding," as it is technically termed, generally much greater than at any other period. Every effort is, therefore, made by the planter to avail himself, to the utmost extent, of the seasonable advantages which March brings along with it, and the labourer commonly shares in the general gain by a temporary increase of wages.

The process of sugar manufacture is in this district proceeding rapidly, and I am led to hope that the crop will not only be taken off in the proper season, but will in its results present a considerable excess over that of the previous year. Appearances for the following crop are also not unfavourable.

A variety of petty cases during the month I have been able to settle,—some by compromise, others by advice, and in some few instances by the award of compensation damages to the parties injured. The case of *Joseph and Mathurine versus J. E. Prevotau*, the only one calling for report, has already, I believe, been brought before his Excellency in another shape.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. COLQUHOUN, Special Justice, Fourth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 5.

Sir,

Vieux Fort, April 2, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that no case was brought before the Court of Petty Sessions, in the Fifth District, during the month of March, 1841.

Boy Vincent—sentenced to 10 days' solitary confinement by the special justice, for forcibly resisting the policeman, at Micoud, whilst in the execution of his duty.

Rufin—fined 25 livres, or six days' imprisonment, for improper conduct towards the same policeman.

Ambrosine, Marie Sainte, Rose, Caroline, of Canelle estate—fined 30 livres each by the special justice for disorderly conduct. Fines paid.

William, labourer, on Canelle estate—sentenced to eight days' imprisonment for riotous conduct.

No change has taken place since last report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES JOHNSTON, Special Justice, Fifth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

(No. 98.)

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Governor Sir E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, June 25, 1841.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 26, St. Lucia, of the 3d of May, enclosing reports from the special magistrates of that island for the month of March.

I am glad to find that the crop of this year is expected to be so much larger than the last; that sugar cultivation is extending; that the want of labour for agricultural purposes is not complained of; that the system of letting out pieces of land to the labourers, to be paid for either by a fixed rent, or by a portion of the produce raised, is beginning to prevail; and that the general condition and conduct of the peasantry is so much improved.

The question proposed by Mr. Bennett, the stipendiary magistrate of the Third District, relative to the competency of the Courts of Petit Sessions to decide cases

T 2

ST. LUCIA.

No. 4.

ST. LUCIA. in which the amount in dispute exceeds the value of a doubloon, should be referred to the Attorney-General of the colony for his report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **J. RUSSELL.**

His Excellency Sir **E. J. Murray MacGregor, Bart.,**
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 27.)

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir **E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Bart.,**
to Lord **JOHN RUSSELL.**

My Lord,

Government House, Barbados, June 5, 1841.

No. 5.
17 May, 1841; No.
23. With 5 Reports.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon, administering the Government of St. Lucia, with reports from the special magistrates of that island respectively for the month of April last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Governor.**

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 23.)

Enclosure in No. 5.

Encl. in No. 5.
Nos. 1 to 5.

Sir,

St. Lucia, May 17, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, copies of the reports of the stipendiary magistrates for the month of April.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **GEORGE GRAYDON, Lieutenant-Colonel,**
administering the Government.

His Excellency Sir **E. J. M. MacGregor, Bart.,**
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

E. J. MURRAY MACGREGOR, Governor.

No. 1.

Sir,

Castries, May 3, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report, for his Excellency's information, that there has been no change in the First District since my last report. On the 27th April I held an inquest on the body of an old woman, named Rosie, who died suddenly on going from town to her provision-ground. The jury returned a verdict, that the deceased had died by the visitation of God.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **G. LAFFITTE, Special Justice, First District.**

The Hon. **H. H. Breen, Colonial Secretary,**
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 2.

Sir,

Gros Islet, Second District, May 3, 1841.

NOTHING worthy of special record has occurred in this district during the past month. One or two cases of trespass, and an occasional accusation of petty assault, have been summarily adjudged, without interfering with the general tranquillity of the district.

The labourers continue to apply themselves willingly, and with assiduity, to the taking off of the crop, which, however, I regret to state, has been considerably retarded by the protracted dry weather, it being impossible for the planters to continue the manufacture of sugar without frequent and lengthened interruption, owing to the deficient supply of water for the mills and steam engines.

The crop of the ensuing year will also suffer from the present want of rain, so essential to the young plant-canes. The cattle and other stock have not escaped the consequences of the drought, and I regret to say, that on some estates considerable loss has been sustained.

Wages continue, as stated in my previous reports, averaging from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 6d. sterling per diem.

Ground-provisions are still plenty and prices not unreasonable.

ST. LUCIA.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES V. DRYSDALE, Special Justice, Second District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 3.

Sir,

Soufrière, May 10, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report that nothing has occurred to disturb the tranquillity of the Third District during the month of April last.

The labourers continue to work pretty steadily and the sugar crop is now far advanced, and although the season has been excessively dry, will prove quite an average one.

There has been no necessity to hold a Court of Petit Sessions during the month, the numerous little disputes arising amongst the smaller proprietors of the district always admitting of an amicable arbitration on my part.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES BENNETT, Special Justice, Third District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 4.

Sir,

Vieux Fort, St. Lucia, May 1, 1841.

THE official reports which I had the honour to submit to you for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor bore favourable testimony to the working of the free-labour system and the deportment of the peasantry in the Fourth District. It gratifies me on this occasion also to have to inform you that no occurrence during the month just elapsed has tended to lessen the character or force of the observations I had then the honour to forward through you.

The visit of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to this district, whilst making his tour of inspection last month, was hailed with pleasure by its inhabitants, and by no class more so than the labourers; at least, I judge by the effects and the sentiments subsequently expressed by them.

I have not been called upon during the past month to entertain a single case between employers and labourers. Some trifling disputes amongst the latter class I have generally arranged amicably.

The taking off of the crop progresses rapidly, and the results will, I think, bear out fully the favourable anticipations expressed by me in previous reports.

Daily experience and observation lead me more and more, even at the risk of repetition, to impress upon the notice of his Excellency the vast importance of extending as much as possible, here and elsewhere, the system of cultivating canes in halves, to which I have in other reports alluded. Perhaps the statement of one or two facts, taken at random from numerous instances of which I am cognizant, will best illustrate what I mean, and add consistence to the urgency of my recommendation.

On an estate in this district there resides a labourer who, cultivating canes in halves, planted during 1840 canes which will this year yield from four to five hogsheads of sugar. Taking, however, the lowest estimate—four hogsheads—at the present prices of produce, each hogshead cannot clear less, after the deduction of all expenses, than 30*l.* sterling; so here is a labourer earning by his industry 60*l.* sterling per annum. Be it remembered in addition, that these canes have been cultivated on Saturdays, holidays, and during his spare hours only, whilst all the rest of his time he has been working and receiving daily wages as a general labourer on the property, with free tenancy of house and provision-grounds. His young children also, instead of running about idle and useless, would be acquiring habits of industry and knowledge, whilst assisting their parent by carrying plants and manure to his cane piece.

To the proprietor, again, the advantages of this system are still greater; for merely giving the use of a piece of waste land, which probably he himself had not the means to cultivate, he receives two hogsheads of sugar, or 60*l.* sterling, besides three or four puncheons of molasses; and, if he have much land cultivated in this manner, he knows that he can always command a certain proportion of effective labour in any emergency.

As these canes are generally put in with care, they probably give two good rattoons; and as the cultivation of rattoons, in so far as regards labour, is a trifle when compared with the first establishment of plants, the parties reap the two subsequent crops with great ease, and may, if they will, and as they probably in most instances do, be establishing other plant canes at the same time.

On another estate in this district, about 40 hogsheads of sugar have already been made during the present crop, entirely on this system, and some of it from canes planted by individuals, who, during slavery and apprenticeship, would have held it the depth of degradation

ST. LUCIA. to cultivate the sugar-cane, which, now the test and reward of industry, was, then viewed by them as the badge of infamy and bondage.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. COLQUHOUN, Special Justice, Fourth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 5.

Sir,

Vieux Fort, May 2, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that no cases were brought for adjudication before the Courts of Petty Sessions in the Fifth District during the month of April.

The following cases were disposed of by the special justice:—

Alexis, Froumassée Estate, *v.* Louison Veroneau. Assault—not proved, dismissed.

St. Catherine, Fond Estate, *v.* Mark. Assault—fined thirty livres, or eight days' imprisonment.

Mélie, Canelle Estate, *v.* Valmont. Assault—not proved, defendant fined forty livres, or eight days' imprisonment, for disorderly and riotous conduct on the estate.

There has been no alteration in the rate of wages, nor has anything worthy of notice occurred.

The district continues in perfect tranquillity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES JOHNSTON, Special Justice, Fifth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

(No. 5.)

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DARLING, administering the General Government of the Windward Islands, to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, July 1, 1841.

No. 6.
12 June, 1841; ..
No. 28. With
Reports.

I HAVE the honour of herewith forwarding to your Lordship the copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon, together with reports of the several magistrates of St. Lucia for the month of May last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY C. DARLING, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 28.)

Enclosure in No. 6.

Sir,

St. Lucia, June 12, 1841.

Encl. in No. 6.
Nos. 1 to 6.

I HAVE the honour to forward for your Excellency's information copies of the reports of special magistrates for the month of May.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE GRAYDON, Lieutenant-Colonel,
administering the Government.

His Excellency Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

JOHN BEDINGFIELD, Private Secretary.

No. 1.

Sir,

Castries, June 2, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report for his Excellency's information that, notwithstanding the report that was in circulation in the beginning of last month, that the labourers had abandoned

been employed in their gardens, as I have been informed by themselves. In all other respects there has been no change since my last report.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) G. LAFFITTE, Special Justice, First District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 2.

Sir,

Gros Islet, Second District, June 2, 1841.

No change in the state of this district, since my report for the month of April. Little has been done in the taking off of the crop, owing to continual dry weather. With reference to the foolish rumour, which at the commencement of the month had caused a momentary alarm amongst the labourers, (of the existence of which I duly apprised his Excellency the Governor in my letter of the 11th May,) I am happy to state that it has entirely dissipated, and that my confidence, in the natural good sense of the labourers, aided by patience and a little friendly advice, has not been disappointed.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. V. DRYSDALE, Special Justice.

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 3.

Sir,

Soufrière, June 7, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report, that during the past month, nothing has occurred to disturb the tranquillity of the Third District. The last rains have done much good, and the planters are pushing the work to get off speedily the remainder of the present crop, and to take care of the coming one. One of the wealthiest proprietors of this district (Mr. Goodman) has brought down a party of emigrants from Barbados. The wages which this gentleman gives to these people are eighty livres per month, together with house, provision-grounds, medical attendance, and rations, until their grounds are in full bearing; and it is but justice to add, that these people and their employer seem much pleased with each other.

The German emigrants on the Belle Plaine estate continue in excellent health and spirits, and there can now be no doubt but that these people have greatly bettered their condition in life. From my own positive knowledge, many of them, besides the comforts which they daily enjoy, have amassed considerable sums of money, two of the members of this interesting settlement were married last month, and I believe that other matrimonial engagements amongst them are now in contemplation.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BENNETT, Special Justice, Third District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 4.

Sir,

Vieux Fort, June 1, 1841.

THE annexed Judicial Report, which I have the honour to submit to you for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, will show that, in the previous month, no complaint particularly affecting the respective rights of proprietor and labourer, has come before me for adjudication. There have, nevertheless, been mutual complaints, which, it will be satisfactory to his Excellency to learn; I have, by advice from me, and conciliatory recommendations been enabled to arrange amicably; but, I regret to add that a ridiculous rumour, originating, as I am informed, in the districts contiguous to Castries, has been, by the malice of a few, and the credulity of many, converted into a cause of considerable misunderstanding. The rumour I allude to was one, which sought to endanger the staple cultivation of the colony, by impressing the labourers with the idea that all persons found engaged in planting the cane would be once more subjected to bondage. I have in vain used every effort to trace this invention to its source, but I am convinced that it would not have received such ready credence, but for a mistimed attempt on the part of some of the planters to reduce the rate of wages in this district; and, I am, however reluctantly, compelled to state that a species of competition exists in the district which is alike injurious to employer and labourer. I can in reality describe it in no better terms than by saying that a majority of the planters, in a certain sense, offer a bounty to entice the labourers of others; and, it is but naturally consequent,

ST. LUCIA.

that the negro who receives but tenpence on one estate, will prefer another where he receives twenty.

I have visited estates, and called the negroes for information before me, and, I trust that his Excellency will rest assured, that I shall use all possible efforts to promote the tranquillity of this district.

I have, &c.,

A. C. COLQUHOUN, Special Justice, Fourth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary.

&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

Marie Jeanne of Park Estate,

versus

Foco of the same Estate.

Assault.

Proved—Sentenced to pay to the colony 120 Cs.

For other cases vide Report, on "Courts of Reconciliation," addressed to Lieutenant S. G. Ord, Private Secretary,

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 5.

Sir,

Vieux Fort, June 2, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that no court of petty sessions was held in the Fifth District during the month of May, neither was any complaint preferred before me individually.

No alteration has taken place in the rate of wages, or description of labour.

The tranquillity of the district was likely to have been disturbed, in consequence of some idle rumours which had been afloat in the quarter of Micoud.

It would appear, from what I have been able to ascertain, that a report has been circulated, that the Queen had expressed her disapprobation at the labourers continuing to be employed in the cultivation of the cane; that Her Majesty had directed the scale of wages to be reduced, and that all persons following that occupation should be compelled to wear a red cap or bonnet, by way of distinguishing them from those otherwise employed. I lost no time in repairing to the quarter, and actually found that some of the labourers had already left, and others were preparing to retire into the heights with their effects. I assembled such as I could get together on the emergency (and fortunately there were some of the most intelligent amongst them), and after having pointed out the folly of their conduct, I ridiculed their fears. The effect was such as I had anticipated; they appeared to be ashamed of their behaviour, and promised to act more wisely in future.

I could not, with my best endeavour, trace the origin of the report, but gave orders to the constables to arrest and bring before me every person of suspicious character who may be found loitering about the estates, without reasonable cause being adduced; this appeared to have given satisfaction.

I am happy to observe that the alarm was but momentary; that those who had absented themselves had returned to their occupations, and that the district throughout remains in perfect tranquillity.

I regret to be compelled to remark, that the planters themselves are not entirely free from censure; and should misunderstandings sometimes occur between them and their labourers, blame does not rest with one party alone.

The district is perhaps the most extensive and least populous in this very thinly-populated island, and the number of labourers being proportionally small, each planter endeavours to obtain as many as he can, whether to the detriment of his neighbour or not, is of minor consideration. This creates mutual distrust, and mutual recrimination follows; the labourer, always alive to his own interest, yields to the highest bidder, (who can blame him for following the example set him by those more enlightened than himself?) and goes from one estate to another, according to inducements held out to him; gets into an unsettled way of living, neglects his garden upon the estate where he was formerly located, and having no fixed place of domicile, returns by stealth after his day's labour has been completed, and when found there, a complaint is brought against him; the justice of the complaint I will not attempt to question, but trace the cause, and it will be found to originate with the very person who complains. If the planters would only come to an amicable understanding, they would find that by so doing they would not only benefit themselves but the labourers likewise; for they could then calculate, upon a certainty, the number of persons in their employment, and the labourer would consequently become more settled and steady in his habits, and give over that system of roving from one estate to another, of which the authors of the evil themselves complain.

The planters of the district are men of humanity, and are kind and indulgent to those employed by them; and would they but adopt another line of conduct than that hitherto pursued by them, and become more just to themselves, there is no doubt that the district would

continue to prosper, and they would naturally enjoy the advantages of such prosperity in a like ratio. ST. LUCIA.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES JOHNSTON, Special Justice, Fifth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk Government Office.

(No. 11.)

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DARLING, administering the General Government of the Windward Islands, to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord, Government House, Barbados, 30th July, 1841.

I HAVE the honour of herewith forwarding to your Lordship the copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon, together with reports of the special magistrates of St. Lucia, for the month of June last.

No. 7.

July, 1841.

4.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY C. DARLING, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 35.)

Enclosure in No. 7.

Sir,

St. Lucia, July 16, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your Excellency's information, copies of the reports of the special magistrates for the month of June. The observations contained in the joint report of Messrs. Drysdale and Laffitte, respecting the state of the law, and the difficulty and expense of prosecuting appeals from the decisions of the local justices, appear to me to be well founded; and I beg leave to draw the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government to the subject.

Encl. in No. 7.

Nos. 1 to 4.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE GRAYDON, Lieutenant-Colonel,
administering the Government.

His Excellency Major-General Darling, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government.
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

, Private Secretary.

No. 1.

Sir,

Castries, July 1, 1841.

THE continued tranquillity and general state of both the First and Second Districts being such as not to require any special report, we beg leave to submit a joint report for the month of June.

Our object in so doing is that we may have an opportunity to call the attention of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to a matter of much interest and importance to the labours, as also to the poor of every class in the colony.

We allude to the present state of the law as regards the question of appeal from the judicial decisions of the justices of the peace, to a higher tribunal.

To a poor ignorant labourer the difficulty of access to the superior courts is insurmountable, attended as it is with expense far beyond his limited means, and with a responsibility and risk few are willing to incur.

An Ordinance of 8th February, 1826, entitled "An Ordinance defining the judicial powers of the Commissary Commandant," accorded the right of appeal to any one considering himself aggrieved by the decisions of the Commissary Commandant. The party making appeal was required to give notice of his intention so to appeal on the day the decision was so given, to deposit a sufficient sum to meet the expense attending the removal of the other party, and the witnesses, and to give security to abide the judgment of the Court appealed to.

On those conditions being complied with, the Commissary Commandant was required to transmit to the "Procureur du Roi" a report of his proceedings, and the depositions in the case. The Procureur du Roi then brought the matter before the Court of First Instance, where the merits of the case were fully gone into, the witnesses examined anew, and the decision of the Inferior Court then revised, confirmed, or set aside.

At that time slavery still existed, and the idea of appeal, as regarded the labouring popu-

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ST. LUCIA.

lation, was never entertained; still we see in the provisions of this Ordinance some protection against the judgments of the Commissaries, attended with little expense to the appellants, who were represented before the Court by the law officer of the Crown, the *Procureur du Roi*.

In 1834 a thorough change and reform in our social system having taken place, an Ordinance, dated 23rd October, 1834, was enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor and Legislative Council, abolishing the office of Commissary Commandant, and appointing Justices of the Peace. By this Ordinance the jurisdiction of the Justices of the Peace is clearly defined; in civil matters it does not exceed debts of more than 3*l.* 4*s.* sterling, and in police their powers are limited to the infliction of a fine of 3*l.*, to imprisonment with or without hard labour for the term of fourteen days, or both fine and imprisonment.

This Ordinance, however, did not provide for the right of appeal, and being found otherwise imperfect, was subsequently amended by an Ordinance of 29th August, 1836, entitled "An Ordinance to define and limit the powers and jurisdiction of the Justices of the Peace." This Ordinance enacts "that it shall not be competent or lawful for any justice of the peace, not being a special magistrate, to receive or entertain judicially any complaint or charge whatsoever against any apprentice or apprenticed labourer; and it also allows parties to appeal from the judgments of the Justices of the Peace to the Royal Court; which appeal is directed to be made as follows: "Any person entitled to make such appeal shall give to the justice or justices whose act shall be appealed from, notice in writing of such appeal, and of the grounds thereof, within seven days, and shall be bound to enter into a recognizance with sufficient security personally to appear and prosecute such appeal."

This Ordinance would appear to guarantee the indigent of every class, as well as the public in general, against the judgments rendered by the Justices of the Peace, when they should have reason to believe themselves injured thereby; but if such was the object of the legislature (as we are bound to believe), this object has not been attained, for the appellant from the decision of a Justice of the Peace is (whatever may be the issue of his appeal) invariably condemned to costs, which generally vary from three to four pounds sterling ad minimum; besides, the party so making appeal, particularly should he be poor and unfriended, is always required to pay in advance to his lawyer (by whom he can alone appear before the Court) a sum seldom less than three pounds sterling, otherwise his cause, however good and just, will not be attended to; and from his inability to satisfy this preliminary demand he is thus virtually debarred from appearing before the Court in vindication of his rights. Where is the individual who would willingly pay a sum of four pounds sterling to avoid a sentence condemning him to pay (at most) three? while the chance of being obliged to pay both is by no means uncertain.

Such is the actual position of the poor labourer, exposed, as we have occasion to see daily, to the incapacity and caprice of certain Justices of the Peace, without the power to avail himself of his legitimate right of appeal, whereby he might make manifest his innocence or obtain his due.

The decisions of the local justices are in numerous instances strange indeed, and far from standing the test of law; in too many cases cannot be said to be good in equity. We are called upon daily to notice the interference of the Justices of the Peace in matters which alone regard the peculiar powers of the special magistrates; and although the judgments given in those cases are but too frequently inconsistent with, or in opposition to the Orders in Council, framed for our special guidance, yet we have no power to oppose the execution of the illegal judgments so given, and it is vain to advise the party to seek redress by appeal.

We abstain from particularizing instances of this assumption of power, and are unwilling to cite cases of erroneous and oppressive judgments; they are of daily occurrence, and it is from our inability to interpose that we feel impelled by a strong sense of duty to make this statement.

His Excellency, we trust, will appreciate our motives; and we confidently hope that he may be pleased to adopt some steps to remove the difficulties now in the way of appeal from the decisions of the inferior Courts.

Relying on his Excellency's discernment and more extensive information, we would refrain from offering any opinion, further than to suggest that possibly the establishment of an Assistant Court of Appeal, as exists at Barbados and other islands, or a modification of the law as it now stands, relieving the party making the appeal from such heavy charges and recognizances, might in some measure tend to the removal of the evil existing under the present system.

The system of Assistant Courts of Appeal has been productive of much real good, and has been highly approved of by the colonial minister.

The opinion of Sir Robert Boucher Clarke, as expressed in his official communication to the Government on the subject of the Assistant Courts of Appeal at Barbados, is strong in favour of the system. He says, "the moral effect of the institution of this particular Court of Appeal has been already highly beneficial, and when these important amendments are generally brought into operation, I feel perfectly sure that it will secure the general confidence of all classes, and effectually prevent injustice to any."

This opinion of one so well qualified to judge, has been fully confirmed by experience; and the Assistant Courts of Appeal have been found to operate effectually, not only in reversing unjust decisions, but in preventing unreasonable complaints. We would respectfully request the attention and serious consideration of his Excellency to the representations herein made. The necessity of some check to the summary proceedings of the local justices is painfully apparent to every one conversant with their arbitrary powers, real or assumed; and it is with the

conviction of the expediency of an early reform: that we now address his Excellency the Governor on this matter:

ST. LUCIA.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES V. DRYSDALE, Special Justice, Second District.

(Signed) G. LAFFITTE, Special Justice, First District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 2.

Sir,

Soufrière, July 12, 1841.

THE Third District has been quiet enough during June; at the beginning of the month, however, some disturbance prevailed on the sugar properties here, respecting wages.

The news from England, concerning the discussion of the sugar duties, and the fall in the price of sugar, brought the planters to think seriously upon their future position; and, abandoning the reckless plan of outbidding each other in the labour-market; they endeavoured to reduce and equalise the rate of wages.

As I was and am perfectly satisfied that it is not high wages alone which will make the negro labourer happy, and as I have had, in my capacity of physician, as well as in that of stipendiary magistrate, many opportunities of observing the disastrous effects arising to the Soufrière negro, who, quitting for a time his own healthy quarter, goes to Roseau, Mibouya, and other rich but sickly localities, for the sake of a bit or two more wages, I did my best to arrange matters between proprietor and labourer on a better footing. On the Anse Mamin and Soufrière estates, nearly all the labourers have agreed to pay two dollars per month for their houses and grounds, selling their labour wherever they please. On many other properties the negroes, in increasing numbers, are taking land, which land they agree to cultivate in canes, the landlords furnishing mules, carts, &c., and fabricating the sugar when the canes are ripe, each party taking half the proceeds. As these methods, especially the last, will I trust obviate in a great measure the continual bickerings and abuses engendered on both sides by the old system, I shall think it my duty to encourage the general adoption of them.

I am happy to report the arrival of another German family upon the Belle Plain estate. I mention this, as it is a very good proof of the prosperity of this interesting settlement, inasmuch as the new comers (husband, wife, and three children,) are intimately related to one of the earlier emigrants, and induced to come out by their happy representatives.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES BENNETT, Special Justice, Third District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

No. 3.

Sir,

Vieux Fort, July 1, 1841.

WHEN I had last the honour to report to you the state of my district, for the information of his Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon, I was compelled with pain to apprise you that disputes respecting wages prevailed between employers and labourers, and that much discontent existed in consequence amongst the latter. Since that period I regret to add these misunderstandings, on two estates, ended for a time in total stoppage of work. I immediately repaired to them; and, having assembled the labourers, I fully and patiently explained to them the position in which such conduct would place, not only themselves and their employers, but also myself, as it would oblige me, however reluctantly, to resort to measures of ejection against them. I also explained to them the impossibility of giving the former high rate of wages, with houses and grounds, unless some equivalent was received by the employer, either in labour or in the increased price of sugar; but this latter was, on the contrary, I told them, declining daily. His Excellency will doubtless be gratified to learn that these representations had their effect, mutual confidence being restored, and the labourers resumed their work at the reduced rate of wages.

I have had numerous petty complaints to settle between the labourers themselves, during the past month; but, with the exception of the two cases subjoined, I had the satisfaction to effect amicable arrangements in all; indeed, it is a source of much gratification to me to perceive that my humble influence avails so powerfully with them.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. C. COLQUHOUN, Stipendiary Justice, Fourth District.

Honoré, convicted of assault, sentenced to eight days imprisonment, with labour.

Marie Claire, convicted of having given, knowingly, false testimony. Six days' imprisonment, with labour.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 4.

Vieux Fort, July 1, 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that no case was brought before the Court of Petty Sessions in the Fifth District, nor was any person sentenced to imprisonment during the month of June.

Intimation having been given that a reduction would take place in the rate of wages, in consequence of the reduced price of sugars, the labourers on Troumassée and Canelle estates struck work, refusing to receive less than hitherto. As the proprietors of those properties offered as high wages as any other estate in the quarter, I visited them, and, without attempting to bias their inclinations, explained my views on the subject to the labourers, and advised them to reflect well before coming to any hasty decision; but, not wishing it to be supposed that I wanted to induce them to act against their inclinations, I left them to make their own arrangements with the proprietors; and, from what I observed, I have every reason to hope that a mutual understanding will take place, and the labourers return quietly to work.

The Canelle and Troumassée estates are the only ones in the quarter on which medical attendance is allowed at the expense of the proprietor; and this is a very great advantage to the labourer, considering that there is no medical practitioner residing within seven miles of the former and twelve of the latter estate.

The two estates above mentioned have been in the habit of giving a higher scale of wages than any of the others in the quarter; and the work generally performed being "task work," the people have been known to finish a day's labour by 11 o'clock; I have been told sometimes earlier; and although the person in charge of those estates has always expressed his satisfaction at the fulfilment of the agreement, it nevertheless caused great dissatisfaction amongst the other planters in the quarter, at seeing the labourers leave work at so early an hour. It is to be remarked that the work performed on the other estates is of a different description to that on Canelle and Troumassée, it being by the job on some, and an allowance for eight hours' daily labour on others.

"Task work" is digging a certain number of cane-holes, or weeding a certain number of canes daily, without reference to the time taken to perform the same; and "job work" is to dig a piece of ground, no matter its dimensions, or plant it in canes, or weed it, for a certain sum agreed upon by the parties.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JAMES JOHNSTON, Special Justice, Fifth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(True Copy.)

J. H. JENNINGS, Chief Clerk, Government Office.

(No. 8.)

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Lieutenant-Governor DARLING, administering the General Government of the Windward Islands.

Sir,

Downing-street, October 30, 1841.

No. 8.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, St. Lucia, No. 11, 30th July, received here on the 15th September, transmitting the reports of the special magistrates for June, accompanied by a Despatch from President Graydon, in which he calls my attention to the joint report of Messrs. Drysdale and Laffitte on the difficulty and expense of prosecuting appeals from the decisions of the local justices in the present state of the law.

I have considered this report with attention, and I entirely concur in the opinion expressed by Messrs. Drysdale and Laffitte, that the administration of the law in St. Lucia would be greatly improved by the establishment, in that island, of an Appeal Court consisting of three stipendiary justices, similar to that which has now been in operation for upwards of three years in Barbados.

It is obvious that, in a society in which slavery has only recently ceased to exist, and in which the labouring classes and the unpaid justices stand to each other in the relation of employed and employers, the jurisdiction in reference to all cases arising out of those relations between the two classes must be suspected and unsatisfactory at least, if not (as it is alleged to be) frequently partial and unjust; and that great care should be taken to afford facilities of appeal to a tribunal in which greater confidence can be placed. It is stated by Messrs. Drysdale and Laffitte that, in St. Lucia, the jurisdiction of the local justices is limited to debts not exceeding 3*l*. 4*s*. sterling, and to the infliction of fines not exceeding 3*l*. sterling, and of imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a period not exceeding 14 days; and yet that the costs of appeal (which fall upon the appellant whatever be the issue of the appeal) are never less than from 3*l*. to 4*l*. sterling, and that he can only appear before the Court by a lawyer, who requires a fee in advance, which is

ST. LUCIA.

seldom less than 3*l.* sterling. The practical result of this state of things necessarily is, that no such facilities as I have referred to exist at present, and that the remedy of appeal must be inaccessible in the great majority of cases. The colonists of Barbados, under the government of the late Sir M. MacGregor, with great credit to themselves and to him, applied themselves under his guidance carefully and successfully to supply a similar deficiency in the means of administering justice in that colony, and, by three successive Acts of the Legislature, established the Assistant Appeal Court on its present footing. Copies of those Acts, and of the correspondence respecting them between my predecessors in this Office and Sir M. MacGregor, will be found in the Papers relative to the West Indies, presented to Parliament: Part 2, for 1839, pp. 45 *et seq.*, 88 *et seq.*, 107 *et seq.*; and Part 2, for 1840, pp. 1 *et seq.* And in subsequent parts of these volumes, and in "Part 2 Continued" for 1840, will be found periodical returns of the proceedings of the Assistant Appeal Court.

I request that you will call President Graydon's attention to these documents, and that you will also furnish him with a copy of the Table of Fees as framed by the Assistant Appeal Court, and approved by the Governor and Council, under the Act of the 19th July, 1838, of which I do not find any copy amongst the papers sent home and printed for Parliament. It is stated that the costs are so light as to occasion no impediment to an appeal where there is a reasonable prospect of success, especially as no costs are charged to the appellant if success be actually obtained. And as the amended Acts relieve the appellant from the written and technical forms of procedure required by the original Act, I apprehend that the appellant stands in no need of a legal adviser.

With the assistance of these documents and of the law officers of the Crown, President Graydon will be enabled to frame the draft of an Order in Council for the establishment of a jurisdiction in appeal, similar to that established in Barbados with so much success and so much satisfaction to all classes of the inhabitants. But as there may possibly be local differences between the two colonies which may require some modification of the law, in order to adapt it to the circumstances of St. Lucia, I should wish that, when this draft is prepared, it should be submitted to the Council, in order that that body may have an opportunity of considering the measure, and suggesting any alterations which may appear to them to be required. I am not myself aware of any material difference, except that in St. Lucia the Governor or President and Council does not, as in Barbados, constitute a Court of Error.

I am not aware of any reason why the proposed Order in Council should not erect the Officer administering the Government and the Council of St. Lucia into a Court of Appeal in the last resort, from the proposed Appeal Court below.

I have, &c.

STANLEY.

The Officer administering the Government,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 20.)

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DARLING, administering the General Government of the Windward Islands, to Lord John RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbados, August 10, 1841.

I HAVE the honour of herewith forwarding to your Lordship the copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon, together with reports of the special magistrates of St. Lucia for the month of July last.

I have, &c.

HENRY C. DARLING, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 9.

9 August, 1841.

No. 44.

5.

ST. LUCIA.

(No. 44.)

Enclosure in No. 9.

St. Lucia, August 9, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, copies of the reports of the stipendiary magistrates for July.

(Signed)

I have, &c.

GEORGE GRAYDON, Lieutenant-Colonel,
administering the Government.

His Excellency Major-General Darling, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy, &c.)

JOHN BEDINGFIELD, Private Secretary.

No. 1.

Sir,

Castries, August 4, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my report of the First District for the month of July. The estates have been much benefited by the recent rains, and the crop is almost finished.

On the 31st July I held an inquest on the body of a labourer, named "Bill," who met with his death by falling from a ladder whilst painting a house. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

(Signed)

I have, &c.

G. LAFFITTE, Special Justice, First District, and Coroner.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

H. H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 2.

Sir,

Gros Islet; Second District, August 2, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to submit my District Report for the month of July; and on the occasion of the completion of the third year of unrestricted freedom it is satisfactory to me to be able to report favourably of the conduct and industry of the agricultural labourers in this district.

It is with pleasure also I bear testimony to the general humanity and kind treatment of the several proprietors and managers towards the labourers in their employ.

During the past year, cases of complaint against employers by their labourers have been comparatively few, and these consist chiefly of some supposed or real injury in the settlement on paying of wages. Many difficulties in such cases arise from the very reprehensible practice of encouraging the labourers to contract debts by purchasing goods or provisions from the shop or store of the estate, and then on paying his wages, exacting or requiring of him the liquidation of this debt. The labourer, finding his weekly earnings so diminished and exhausted by his improvident extravagance, (encouraged as I have stated,) feels dissatisfied, and considers himself injured or imposed upon by his employer; then seeks redress before the magistrate, or quits his employ with disgust, and wanders somewhere else, to become a second time victim to the same pernicious system.

This is an abuse; as such I have always considered it to be, and my exertions have ever been directed in the endeavour to crush this mischievous truck system, by which all confidence between the labourer and his employers is destroyed, and habits of steady, continuous industry practically discouraged.

The very high prices given for colonial produce in England encouraged and enabled the cultivator to give high, even very high wages, to his labourers; but a change has taken place, sugars have fallen in price, and the consequence is, that the planters are now endeavouring to effect a proportionate reduction in the wages of their labourers. They say, when we prospered, you also benefited; we now suffer, and you ought to suffer with us. This may be true, but is not convincing to the mind of the labourer, who cannot be brought at once to submit to such a heavy deduction from his daily wages as is required of him by the planters. The consequence has been, that wherever this sudden decrease of wages has been enforced the supply of labour has been limited and uncertain. Some have consented to work for 1s. per diem, where they formerly got 1s. 8d. sterling; but those are very few; the greater number prefer resorting to the cultivation of their provision gardens for a time, there to reflect on the terms offered them for their labour, and to take advantage of the favourable season for planting their gardens. On some estates the wages have been reduced to a fair remuneration of 1s. 3d. sterling per diem; and on those properties no serious scarcity of labour has been experienced, although the same force cannot be commanded as formerly.

Again, this question of wages for agricultural or manufacturing labour has never been placed on a fixed satisfactory footing. No scale of wages has ever been formed or adopted, and the greatest difference and irregularity exists now, as in the first days of freedom, as to the remuneration for a day's labour in the field or in the boiling-house. Scarce any two planters are of the same opinion on this vital question; and in no two districts of the island are they agreed

on a point of such importance; the consequence is, distrust and jealousy amongst themselves, with continued striving to obtain labour at the sacrifice of their own interests, and the interruption of all friendly feeling between neighbour and neighbour.

If continuous labour cannot be secured under such an ever varying system of wages, surely the cause is to be found not so much in habits of idleness or indifference to work on the part of the labourers, as in the inducement to change held out by the planter himself, who thus encourages the labourer to seek at a distance from his home some fancied advantage in a trifling increase of his daily wages. This is no supposition, for it is a well known fact, that it is a common practice with many planters to pay a labourer, when a stranger to the estate, a higher rate of wages than a labourer resident on the property, and this often at a premium of one fourth more.

Disputes respecting wages, an occasional assault, and instances of summary ejectment, form the principal subjects of complaint on the part of the labourers. On the other hand, the aid of the magistrate is invoked by the employer, for the suppression of vagrancy, the punishment of trespass, the enforcement of contracts, the protection of property from wilful injury, whether by neglect or otherwise, and in all other matters affecting the police of small communities. With the exception of petty brawls and breaches of the peace amongst the labourers themselves, none of these can be said to be of frequent occurrence.

No case of crime of a grievous nature, such as to be referred to the criminal assizes, has occurred in this district during the year.

One or two individuals were tried and convicted before the police court on charge of petty theft, and were sentenced to short terms of imprisonment. Two cases of aggravated assault, on the persons of two labourers by their employers (one of whom is a justice of the peace) were summarily disposed of, and due protection and compensation awarded to the injured parties.

Although not within the limits of the district under my immediate charge I cannot but allude to the diminution of crime generally as demonstrated by the following statement.

On the 1st August, 1840, the number of prisoners confined in the Royal Gaol at Castries (which is the only public prison in the island) was as follows:—

Prisoners under sentence	30
„ for trial	23
„ lunatic	1
„ debt	2
Total	56

The total number of prisoners now in the gaol is 23 in all, making a difference in favour of this year of no less than 33; classed, 17 under sentence, four for trial, and two for debt.

I am disposed to view this light calendar as being strong testimony in support of the favourable opinion I have ventured to express, of the general conduct of the labourers; and when taken in connection with the fact that there were no cases whatever for trial before the last court of criminal assizes, at its usual sittings in the month of June, it assuredly must be admitted that our colonial peasantry have made some moral progress under the fostering influence of the sun of freedom.

I have already had occasion to express, in one of my monthly reports, my opinion of the relative advantages emanating from the act of emancipation.

I stated facts to show the pecuniary benefits of the proprietors, and proofs are not wanting to demonstrate the physical and moral improvement of the labourer. My conviction on both those points remains unchanged; and in continuance of what I then advanced, I add, that sugar cultivation has extended and is progressing; that active measures are in operation to promote and encourage the augmentation of the agricultural labourers in the island; that immigration from the neighbouring island of Barbados has commenced, and that by the acquisition of this additional means of carrying on the cultivation of the staple products of the colony estates will still further increase in value. The aid of steam has been called in, and engines for the sugar mills are being erected to facilitate the process of manufacture, whilst the distillation of rum is carried on to a great extent, and on more improved principles than by the method hitherto adopted.

The cultivation of cane for the crop of 1842 is advanced, and the crop of this year, although already considerably exceeding the total amount of produce made last year, has not yet been brought to a close. On many estates large fields of canes must remain on the ground uncut, in consequence of the manufacturing process having been arrested by the late dry weather.

The quantity of sugar shipped at this date exceeds that embarked at the same period last year by little short of one thousand casks.

It is true that great panic exists at this moment amongst the merchants and landed proprietors, in consequence of the stagnation of trade and low price of colonial produce in England, but this it is to be hoped is but a temporary evil, and can in no wise be considered as a consequence of the great change in the condition of the labouring population of the colonies. Indeed, when we see even within the limits of this small island, some of our wealthiest proprietors and most experienced planters still extending their interests and expending their capital in increasing largely their estates by purchase, and by the reestablishment of formerly abandoned properties, it is but another argument in favour of the system, and a stronger proof of the success hitherto attending its operation.

Annexed, I beg leave to report the proceedings of a court held at Gros Islet on the 24th July. The case brought before the court was of an uncommon and important nature, and I

Not received.

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flatter myself the decision given thereon may meet with the approbation of his Excellency the Governor.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES V. DRYSDALE, Special Justice, Second District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 3.

Sir,

Soufrière, August 7, 1841.

DURING the past month I have been much occupied with disputes respecting wages. I am now, however, most happy in being able to report that the crisis in the wages question has passed, and passed most happily, (at least in my district.) High wages for irregular and unsteady labour are not the elements in any country, and especially in St. Lucia, to form an industrious and contented peasantry; and I therefore did my best, by mediating between the opposed parties, to put the wages question on a sure and equitable footing. Throughout the district, on the sugar properties, where the negro does not cultivate canes on his own account, the daily wages to the stranger for ordinary fieldwork is 1s. sterling, and 10d. sterling the located labourer; that is to the labourer enjoying house and grounds rent free. This, under present circumstances, is, in my humble opinion, a fair and equitable arrangement, and I am pleased beyond measure at the manner in which the labourers of the Third District have accepted and gone to work upon these terms; it proves that rather than forego gratifying their newly acquired wants they will work continuously, and I am now more than ever certain that if the newly emancipated negro does not become, in the best sense of the word, a civilized being, the fault will not lie with him. Since I last had the honour to report to his Excellency Colonel Graydon, 72 Barbadians, immigrant labourers, have arrived in the district; viz., 43 men, 14 females, and 15 children. They are all of them, without exception, most respectable agricultural labourers from the rural districts of Barbados; eight men and their families have located themselves on the Morne Courbaril estate, and the others have made engagements with the proprietor of the Union Vale and Black Bay estates. The wages given to these people are eight dollars per mensem, with rations, until the provision-grounds allotted to them shall be in full bearing. They appear delighted with their prospects in this country, and I need hardly say that the parties who have engaged their services seem well pleased at such an acquisition.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

CHARLES BENNETT, Stipendiary Magistrate, Third District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 4.

Sir,

Vieux Fort, St. Lucia, August 1, 1841.

MY last official report contained satisfactory representations as to the state of the Fourth District, wherein I am stationed; I have now the honour to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency Colonel Graydon, that a similar condition of affairs continues to exist. The rates of wages are the same as detailed by me in previous reports; although, on most of estates, the cessation of crop has altered the nature of the labour.

The admirable practice of cultivating canes in halves, between proprietors and labourers, which I have once or twice alluded to as prevailing in this district, has in no degree diminished, but is, on the contrary, greatly increased; and I feel convinced that the more general adoption of this mode of cultivation would add much and contribute largely to the prosperity of St. Lucia; and it is a system which I can with confidence recommend for imitation in the other sugar colonies. I believe, from personal inspection, that at least one third of the cane cultivation in the Fourth District is established on this plan, and its advantages to the proprietors are incalculable. One third of his canes are planted and cultivated without any expense to him, and he is insured in the constant residence of steady and industrious labourers, from whom he can always rely upon having the labour requisite to uphold the remaining two-thirds of his cultivation. To the labourer also, as I have in previous reports represented, this system is no less beneficial.

In the absence of any judicial report I have ventured to trespass on his Excellency's attention with these observations; and ere I conclude I hope I shall not be deemed guilty of egotism, when I inform you, that this day being the anniversary of the memorable abolition of slavery in the British colonies, I was waited on by a body, consisting of some hundreds of the male and female peasantry of the district, all most respectably attired, when their spokesman, in a very neat and intelligent speech, stated that they considered that particular day as the most appropriate one on which to visit me, and express their confidence in and attachment to

me. Of course I responded in a similar strain, and stated my well founded hopes of their continued good conduct.

ST. LUCIA.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. C. COLQUHOUN, Special Justice, Fourth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 5.

Sir,

Vieux Fort, August 2, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that no case was brought before the Court of Petty Sessions in the Fifth District under my charge, during the month of July, nor was any person sentenced to imprisonment during that period.

Louis Mauvais Temps, fined 5s. 3d. sterling for trespass.

The labourers on Troumassée and Canelle estates, mentioned in my last report as having struck work, in consequence of a reduction of wages, have come to arrangements with the proprietor, and are, with those of the other estates, working steadily and satisfactorily.

The district continues in undisturbed tranquillity.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES JOHNSTON, Special Justice, Fifth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

(No. 22.)

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DARLING, administering the General Government of the Windward Islands, to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbados, October 2, 1841.

No. 10.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon, administering the Government of St. Lucia, and of reports of the special magistrates of that island for the month of August last.

10 Sept. 1841.

No. 46.

5.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

HENRY C. DARLING, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(No. 46.)

Enclosure in No. 10.

Sir,

St. Lucia, September 10, 1841.

Encl. in No. 10.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, copies of the reports of the special magistrates for the month of August.

Nos. 1 to 5.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE GRAYDON, Lieutenant-Colonel,
administering the Government.

His Excellency Major-General Darling, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(True Copy.)

JOHN BEDINGFIELD, Private Secretary.

No. 1.

Sir,

Castries, September 3, 1841.

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward my report of the First District, under my charge, for the month of August, and in doing so I have nothing to add to my report for the preceding month.

On the 12th ultimo I held an inquest on the body of a young boy of about 10 years of age, who was drowned by accidentally falling into a well on the property of M. V. Maruchau; the jury, in returning their verdict, were unanimously of opinion that this accident was occasioned by the negligence of the proprietor in leaving the well without being properly built up, so as to prevent persons from slipping in. Mr. Maruchau being absent at the time, I ordered, at the suggestion of the jury, that this well should be properly secured, or otherwise filled up,

X

ST. LUCIA.

and since then I have ascertained that the necessary precautions have not been taken to prevent a recurrence of such an accident.

I have, therefore, considered it my duty to bring the circumstance under his Excellency's notice, in order that he may adopt such steps as he may think necessary.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

G. LAFFITTE, Special Justice, First District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 2.

Gros Islet, Second District, September 2, 1841.

Sir,

No change in the state of this district since my report for the month of July.

The sugar crop may be said to have terminated, as only on one or two estates are the mills still going. Much rain has fallen during the month. There has been no case requiring the assembly of a Court of Petty Sessions. A few more labourers from Barbados have arrived, and are located in this district on the Union estate. They all express themselves pleased with the change; and their employer, Mr. M. Todd, is also satisfied with their agricultural labours.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES V. DRYSDALE, Special Justice, Second District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 3.

Soufrière, September 6, 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that little has occurred worthy particular notice in the Third District during August last. About the middle of the month, the crop being finished, there was a slight stoppage of work on some few of the sugar estates, particularly on the Reunion estate, parish of Choiseul. This, however, by friendly meditation between proprietor and labourer, I easily arranged, and all has gone well since.

The anniversary, 1st of August, did not cause much interruption this year; the day was scarcely noticed by the labourers of this district. I regret, however, to say that now the sugar crop is over for the season, complaints respecting thefts of canes and ground provisions are much on the increase; and, upon conviction, I have been compelled to award punishment on the following prisoners:—

Ferdinand, labourer on the Union Vale estate; theft of canes. Fortnight's imprisonment.

Balthazar and Pierre, labourers on the St. Pierre estate; theft of plantains. Three weeks' imprisonment, with hard labour; these were old offenders.

Jules, labourer on the St. Remy estate; theft of yams. Three weeks' imprisonment. An aggravated case of theft and devastation of canes having occurred on the Reunion estate, Choiseul, for the sake of example I have thought it necessary to commit the accused party (who gave considerable trouble to the police in his arrest), to a superior court at Castries, where he now awaits his trial.

The rains appear to have set in permanently, and the canes for next crop give splendid promise.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

CHARLES BENNETT, Special Justice, Third District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 4.

Vieux Fort, September 1, 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency Colonel Graydon, that in the Fourth District, under my superintendence, no change or occurrence of material importance to the district, or colony, has taken place since the date of my last monthly report.

The annual special report, called for by the Right Honourable Secretary for the Colonial Department, which I shall have the honour to transmit to you in a few days, obviates the necessity for any detail from me on this occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. C. COLQUHOUN, Special Justice, Fourth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

AFFAIRS OF ST. LUCIA.

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No. 5.

Sir,

Vieux Fort, September 2, 1841.

ST. LUCIA.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that no case was brought before the Court of Petty Sessions during the month of August, nor was any person sentenced by me to fine or imprisonment.

There has been no alteration in the rate of wages since my last report.

The district remains in undisturbed tranquillity.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. JOHNSTON, Special Justice, Fifth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

(No. 25.)

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DARLING, administering the General Government of the Windward Islands, to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbados, October 25, 1841.

No. 11.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon, administering the Government of St. Lucia, and of reports of the special magistrates of that island, for the month of September last.

11 Oct. 1841 ;

No. 49.

With 5 Reports.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

HENRY C. DARLING, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c.

(No. 49.)

Enclosure in No. 11.

Sir,

St. Lucia, October 11, 1841.

Encl. in No. 11.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, copies of the reports of the stipendiary magistrates for the month of September.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE GRAYDON, Lieutenant-Colonel
administering the Government.

His Excellency Major-General Darling, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government.

&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

JOHN BEDINGFELD, Private Secretary.

No. 1.

Sir,

Castries, October 1, 1841.

HAVING this day sent in my annual report, as required by your letter under date, 28th August, I have the honour to refer his Excellency thereto for the monthly report of my district for the month of September.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

G. LAFFITTE, Special Justice, First District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 2.

Sir,

Gros Islet, Oct. 1, 1841.

HAVING stated at length in my annual report, lately transmitted to your office, my opinion of the present state of cultivation, and general conduct of the labourers, I am not prepared to add any further observations respecting the district under my charge.

A more than usual number of cases have been adjudicated on, in the course of the past month; these have mostly consisted of personal quarrels and family disputes amongst the labourers; and I am inclined to attribute the occurrence of so many police cases to the excitement which prevailed amongst the labourers for some weeks during the celebration of one

ST. LUCIA. — formerly employed on the Corinthe estate. A verdict of accidental death by drowning, was returned by the jury.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES V. DRYSDALE, Special Justice, Second District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 3.

Sir,

Soufrière, October 10, 1841.

NOTHING worthy of special report has occurred in the Third District during the month of September. The coffee estates have commenced gathering in the most abundant harvest which has been seen for the last ten years; and the sugar properties are all advanced in their preparations for next year's crop.

Wages are from 10d. sterling to 1s. per diem.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES BENNETT, Special Justice, Third District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 4.

Sir,

Vieux Fort, October 1, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the information of his Excellency Colonel Graydon, that no occurrence of importance has taken place in the Fourth District since my last official communication. Labour is progressing rapidly; and although crop is now over, the rate of wages continues the same. Appearances for next crop are highly favourable.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. C. COLQUHOUN, Special Justice, Fourth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 5.

Sir,

Micoud, October 3, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that no Court of Petty Sessions was held in the Fifth District, neither was any labourer committed to prison, during the month of September.

There has been no variation in the rate of wages.

The weather continues favourable.

Some ebullition of feeling was evinced by the labourers on three estates in the quarter of Micoud, in consequence of a report having been afloat that some persons intended to assassinate the curate of the parish. I lost no time in proceeding to those estates; and, having assembled the labourers in presence of their employers, pointed out the irregularity of their conduct. They felt the admonition, and promised nothing of the kind should happen in future.

The district remains in tranquillity.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES JOHNSTON, Special Justice, Fifth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

(No. 17.)

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Lieutenant-Governor DARLING, administering the General Government of the Windward Islands.

Sir,

Downing-street, January 26, 1842.

No. 12.

I HAVE received your Despatches. of the numbers and dates noted in the

Mr. Colquhoun, in his return for the month of July, adverts to a practice adopted between the managers and labourers in his district, of cultivating the canes upon the principle of dividing the produce between the owner of the soil and the cultivator. I shall be glad to receive detailed accounts of this plan, which appears to me well adapted to the present circumstances of the colonies, but which seems to have been proportionately much more generally introduced in St. Lucia than in any other colony from which reports have reached me.

ST. LUCIA.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STANLEY.

His Excellency Major-General Darling, administering
the General Government.
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 26.)

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DARLING, administering the General Government of the Windward Islands, to Lord STANLEY.

MY LORD, Government House, Barbados, October 26, 1841.

I HAVE the honour of forwarding to your Lordship the copy of a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon, administering the Government of St. Lucia, enclosing reports of the stipendiary magistrates of that island, in reply to the six questions referred to in Lord John Russell's Despatch.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY C. DARLING, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 33.
12 Oct. 1841;
No. 50.
With 5 Reports.

(No. 50.)

Enclosure in No. 13.

Sir,

St. Lucia, October 12, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Circular-Despatch of the 10th August (No. 14), enclosing extracts of a Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, together with a series of six questions, to be reported on by the stipendiary magistrates; and I beg leave to forward to your Excellency the reports referred to in the said Despatch.

Encl. in No. 32.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEORGE GRAYDON, Lieutenant-Colonel,
administering the Government.

Nos. 1 to 5.

His Excellency Major-General Darling, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)
JOHN BEDINGFELD, Private Secretary.

No. 1.

Sir,

Castries, First District, October 1, 1841.

I HAVE the honour, according to the instructions conveyed in your official letter of the 28th August, to forward my replies to the series of questions submitted to the stipendiary magistrates by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) G. LAFFITTE, Special Justice, First District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)
HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Castries, First District, October 1, 1841.

No. I.—General Character and Condition of the Peasantry.

THE labouring population, since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, study to conduct themselves in such a manner as to show they know how to appreciate the great boon which has been conferred on them; and, finding themselves now more independent than they were during the apprenticeship, they employ their means in establishing themselves and their families in a manner suitable to their altered condition. Their great ambition is to have their own private residence; and, in order to do this, notwithstanding the generality of the planters in this district allow them a house and provision-grounds on their estates, without exacting any

ST. LUCIA.

payment; still they prefer to hire from those same planters, at a fixed annual rent, and sometimes even to purchase portions of land, where they establish their domicile and provision-grounds; and when they are not working for themselves, which does not often exceed one day in the week, they hire themselves on the estates nearest to their residence, and lay out the money thus earned in furnishing their houses, dressing and nourishing their wife and children in clothing and food of a superior quality to what they were wont to do formerly.

Deaths are rather less frequent amongst the labouring population than otherwise, and which I consider in some measure attributable to better nourishment than formerly; and, in case of sickness, they have always sufficient money, either of their own or by advances made them on the estates. In the district under my charge, a professional man is regularly paid by the proprietor of the estate, to visit them periodically. Those persons who are either too poor, or without relations or friends who have the means of nursing them when sick, are sent to the asylum for the poor at Castries, by an order from a magistrate, upon application being made for such.

Crimes and offences of all kinds are considerably diminished.

The chief ambition of the labouring population now is to dress themselves and their children, and conduct themselves in a manner that would even surpass our European peasantry; on Sundays and fête days the church is actually crowded with these persons, many of whom come a considerable distance from the country to attend the mass.

No. II.—Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors.

Generally speaking, the best possible understanding exists between the peasantry and their employers; many of the planters have given pieces of canes to cultivate at half profit with their labourers: at first the latter entered into those contracts with suspicion, being obliged to wait the end of the crop to ascertain their earnings during the year, but finding now that it is to their interest, they are desirous of obtaining them.

In different parts of the district several small hamlets are in formation, but on land belonging principally to private individuals. I do not, therefore, think that this can in any way be considered as affecting the supply of labour for cultivation of the staple produce of the colony, the peasantry of this island being disposed to be industrious.

No. III.—New Institutions.

In this district there are two Roman Catholic churches, at a distance of about 18 miles from one to the other, and one Protestant church in the town of Castries; the one at Anse Laraye, the extremity of the district, is only casually attended by a priest from Castries about once a month. There are two schools of the Mico establishment, and two other small schools, in the town of Castries; the former are more attended, being almost gratis, and the education is in English, which they are desirous of learning; the Roman Catholic clergy are generally opposed to these establishments, and in some instances have prevented children from attending, and at the same time they do not afford any similar institutions for the instruction of the lower classes.

No. IV.—State and Prospects of Cultivation.

In the district under my charge there are 12 sugar estates, employing on an average from 40 to 120 effective labourers each. The crop, which is nearly now terminated, has been more abundant than last year's, and a considerable augmentation has been made to the plantations for next crop, and which, from present appearance, is expected to be still more fruitful than the present. The weather latterly has been very favourable. The wages average from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 10d. sterling per diem, though on some of the estates, where the task system is employed, the labourers are able to earn more.

No. V.—Improvements and Discoveries.

There have been no improvements or discoveries since the dissolution of the apprenticeship in my district; three estates only make use of the plough, and it has been found to considerably decrease manual labour.

No. VI.—State of Internal Traffic.

There is no other internal traffic than a few hucksters, who go upon the estates with a few dry goods and comestibles. On some estates shops were established, but they have all been abandoned with the exception of one; the labourers being paid their wages in money, prefer coming to town with their provisions and poultry, and purchasing what they may require: Saturday is the day fixed throughout the colony for the market day. Merchandise of an inferior quality is no longer in demand, the labourers preferring a superior quality to what they were formerly accustomed to.

(Signed) G. LAFFITTE, Special Justice, First District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,

&c. &c. &c.

(A True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 2.

ST. LUCIA.

Sir,

Gros Islet, Second District, September 20, 1841.

I HAVE the honour, according to the instructions conveyed in your official letter of the 28th August, to forward my replies to the series of questions submitted to the stipendiary magistrates by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JAMES V. DRYSDALE, Special Justice, Second District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary,

REPORT on Questions submitted by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department.

No. I.—General Character and Condition of the Peasantry.

A decided and general improvement has taken place both in the character and condition of the labourer.

Marriage has become more frequent, and is, indeed, now considered by most of the labourers as adding greatly to their respectability, and as being essential to their domestic comfort and tranquillity. Nothing is more common than vexatious quarrels and domestic broils (often of a serious nature), arising from jealousy and distrust between those living in a state of degrading concubinage. This is fast disappearing through the exertions of the clergy, persuading the labourers to marry.

The labourers also manifest more solicitude for the early and regular baptism of their children, and it is rare now to see, as in former days, several children of the same family yet unchristened.

Their taste for dress and luxury has wonderfully increased. The coarse stuff for clothing, as formerly worn by the slave, has been driven from the market, and fine calicoes, silks, Madras handkerchiefs substituted. It is, indeed, astonishing to witness the extravagance in dress exhibited by the labourers on holidays, and more especially when celebrating some of their own particular festivals.

The most costly dresses in silk and fine muslins for their persons, their heads adorned with the brilliant colours of the Madras, studded with golden trinkets, and shaded from the rays of a tropical sun by the protecting silk parasol, are not exaggerations when applied to the personal display of our female labourers on feast days, or great ceremonies of the Catholic church; whilst the superfine coat and Bond-street hat are to be seen in profusion wherever the labourers are congregated. Such is the holiday costume of the labourer, who but a short time ago was indebted to the liberality or the obligation of others for his Kilmarnock cap or Penniston jacket.

It is difficult to ascertain the rate of mortality now, as compared with that during the apprenticeship, but I have no reason to believe that it is greater than formerly. I am aware that, for some time subsequent to the general emancipation, the mortality amongst the old and infirm, and the very young children, was considerably increased; but this does not continue to exist.

I may safely say that crime, and offences also of a lighter nature are of less frequent occurrence; and I feel much satisfaction in bearing testimony to the general tranquillity and good order pervading the district under my charge, in corroboration of which I beg leave to refer to my several monthly reports, and in an especial manner to that rendered for the month of July last.

No. II.—Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors.

A good understanding and friendly feeling exists between the labourer and his employer. No rent for house or provision-grounds is required of such labourers as are located on the estate benefited by their labour. The labourers are generally desirous of being totally independent, and many of them have become proprietors of small allotments of land, and a very large number hold several acres of land by annual lease.

These settlements are generally well cultivated and provided with comfortable houses: stock of every description is raised by such settlers, and it is no uncommon thing for a proprietor to ride his own horse to church, or to the estate on which he bestows his extra labour.

I do not consider the establishment of the labourers, as independent settlers, as being decidedly inimical to the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony, as I have invariably found that they continue, as formerly, to work on the sugar estates. Indeed I am aware that the labourers are encouraged by many planters in thus hiring lands in the vicinity of their estates. The cultivation of their provision-grounds requires but a small portion of their time, and the surplus of their labour is given to those estates nearest their respective dwellings. Their services may not be so much at command as formerly, neither, perhaps, their labour so continued, but it is not less true that they have not abandoned the idea of working the large estates, and, in fact, continue their services as efficient agricultural labourers. My opinion of such settlements is favourable to the system.

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No. III.—New Institutions.

In this district there is one Catholic church in the village of Gros Islet, and a temporary chapel on one of the large estates.

A Catholic priest, resident in Gros Islet, visits occasionally the parish of Dauphin, which forms part of this district. A branch of the Mico Institution is established in Gros Islet. The number of children attending the school is now 32. Many more were formerly enrolled, but have been since withdrawn by their parents, acting under the influence of the parish priest. No saving bank or benefit society exists in this district. This is to be regretted, as I know many labourers who have amassed considerable sums by their industry since they became freemen.

No. IV. State and Prospects of Cultivation.

This district contains 12 sugar estates. The crop has just terminated, and the quantity of produce made exceeds considerably that of last year.

The prospect for the crop of 1842 is good. Much additional land has been planted in canes, and the weather is now favourable.

The rate of wages in this district has been raised during the past year from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* sterling per diem. It may now be said to be generally fixed throughout the several quarters of the district at 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 10*d.* sterling per diem, according to the nature of the work performed.

These wages are given independent of the free occupation and possession of houses and provision grounds, with liberty to raise stock to such labourers as reside on the properties. Medical attendance in cases of sickness is provided for by only three estates in the district. A considerable portion of the estates' work is performed by contract labour, and on many properties the system of cultivating cane fields in shares with one or more labourers, has been attended with advantage to both the labourer and the proprietors of the soil.

There is great room for additional supply of labour.

Although the ordinary work of an estate is not arrested altogether, yet it is frequently suspended or delayed by the difficulty of securing uninterrupted labour, whereby there is incurred a positive loss of time, and frequently also the advantage of a favourable season.

The supply of labour is inadequate to the demand, and this can alone be remedied by emigration.

Continuous labour (so necessary for the effective cultivation of a sugar estate) cannot be expected from a population so few in number and so easily made independent by the purchase or hiring of lands on which they can settle and provide for themselves.

The industry of the labourer may, for a time, be promoted and stimulated, by encouraging the growing taste for luxuries and superfluities which he already possesses in no slight degree; but it is only to the salutary influence of religion and education that we can look for that permanent effect on the mind and habits of the labourer, whereby he may be brought to consider steady honest industry not only as a means of satisfying his personal wants or his varieties, but as a duty both towards himself and that community of which he is now a free and unfettered member.

The tide of emigration has set in from the neighbouring island of Barbados, and promises soon to irrigate and fertilize the soil of St. Lucia by a well-regulated and healthy influx of experienced agricultural labourers.

No. V. Improvements and Discoveries.

Under this head I have only to note the erection of two additional steam engines in this district. I may also remark the substitution of an improved method of rum distillation, by which a very considerable gain is said to be effected.

The plough is not in general use, but I feel confident will soon be adopted when its advantageous application is made manifest by experience. The nature of the soil, and generally flat or even ground of this district, is favourable for its use in preparing cane land.

No. VI. Internal Traffic.

The labourers in this district are enabled, by their proximity to the town of Castries, to supply themselves with such necessaries, provisions, and articles of dress, as they may require; consequently there is little effected by sale on the estates, or by travelling hucksters.

I cannot condemn, in sufficiently strong terms, the system of shop-keeping on estates. The labourer is encouraged to mortgage his wages before they are earned, by his being accorded a deceptive credit for goods taken from the shop; and when the day of payment comes, distrust and discontent are created by this mischievous system. Having so fully and so frequently animadverted on the evils attending this practice, in my monthly reports, I here refrain from saying more.

The kind of goods in demand by the labourers is such as are of good quality, handsome and gaudy patterns, and anything novel or unusual.

The description of coarse goods, formerly imported, are no longer saleable, and even cotton umbrellas are a drug in the market; handsome costly silk parasols being the only description made use of by the emancipated labourer.

(Signed)

JAMES V. DRYSDALE, Special Justice, Second District.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 3.

Third District.

No. I.—General Character and Condition of the Peasantry ; noticing any change observable since the dissolution of the Apprenticeship on their manners, habits, or tastes, on the rate of mortality, or on the nature and frequency of offences.

To the questions cited above, I have the honour to reply that human nature in the negro, like human nature everywhere else, is but slowly progressive, and too short a period has elapsed since the dissolution of the apprenticeship to afford any marked advance in the negro character in its progress towards social improvement. I do not, however, hesitate to say that the amelioration which has been made, although small, is entirely due to complete emancipation.

I am afraid that what I am about to say will not please the ultra philanthropist ; nevertheless I shall conscientiously state what my observations on the negro character have led me to believe to be the truth, which is, that negro intellect in the mass is as yet inferior to the intellect of the white race. As to the capability of the negro intellect to participate in the ordinary laws of social progress, as observed in the other races, and, under like circumstances, ultimately arrive at the standard of his white brethren, I am perfectly satisfied ; but many, many years (ages I fear in poor St. Lucia) must elapse, and those years must be carefully watched over and employed, ere the negro labourer shall be on an intellectual equality with his European brother. Freedom alone will, no doubt, do much, even with the present generation, to lessen this inferiority ; but it is to freedom, combined with religious and moral trainings, together with industrial competition, operating on the rising generation, from which we are to expect the bright result alluded to above. So much for the intellect. But glad am I to say, that in docility and gaiety of disposition, the St. Lucia negro is, at least, equal, nay I think superior, to the white uneducated labourer of Europe,

Slavery, if it have repressed, by its iron discipline, all the nobler faculties, has in an almost equal ratio prevented the developement of the graver passions of the human mind. In fact, the character and disposition of the St. Lucia labourer may be summed up in a few words :—Emancipation found him in mental qualities a mere child,—a good-humoured, spoiled, and wayward child ; like the child capable of being moulded into good or evil, according to the measures observed towards him ; like the child, too, requiring at times to be guided, at times to be coaxed, and at times to be coerced, even into the right road. I will now endeavour to state what, in my humble opinion, is the progress which he has made since August, 1838. At first, when completely emancipated, he thought that liberty consisted in the power of going, without restraint, wherever his caprice might prompt him ; secondly, in avoiding all obligations which might exact a regular and assiduous employment of his time ; thirdly, to work only to gratify the necessities of the moment. Now-a-days he begins to judge more correctly on these points. He begins to understand that his liberty is not compromised when he subjects himself, for payment, to any engagement for continued labour. He begins to feel the benefit of working, not only for the passing moment, but for the future ; and his wandering propensities are, I think, somewhat corrected. He is, too, more economical of his time. Amongst 100 negroes, perhaps, there are at present not more than six, on the average, who are altogether lazy and careless of the future ; the 94 others are careful not to lose a single day without doing something or other for their own profit. During slavery their only object in saving money was either to purchase their freedom, or to provide for their interment ; now, however, their grand passion is to become possessors of a piece of land, and for this the middle aged and old strive unceasingly. It is in physical comforts that the greatest change has taken place. The peasantry is well, nay handsomely clad, and much better fed than formerly. There is a greater consumption of meat and fish than during the apprenticeship. They are beginning to appreciate the comforts of a good lodging. Their earlier gains were devoted to dress ; but in my capacity of physician I have now many opportunities of seeing that they feel the wholesome advantages of a weather-tight house and beds raised from the ground.

Such are the improvements visible in the negro character and condition. Now let us see where he has not improved. Alas ! it is in his morals principally. He has the same petty disregard to the rights of *meum* and *tuum* ; the same propensity and readiness to tell lies ; the same, nay increased, libertinage in both sexes ; the same utter want of correct religious principles ; and the same debasing belief in, and fear of, witchcraft and sorcilage. How alas ! can it be otherwise in a colony like St. Lucia, where, amongst the numerous proprietary body, there is a want of both means and inclination to aid in the moral and religious training of the labourer, and where two proprietors only have, as yet, made any endeavours to encourage education, and especially where in those who call themselves the “ better classes,” rectitude of morals is the exception, not the rule ; and consequently where no other than bad examples are shown, and shown openly, too, to a race with whom example is all powerful. It has been said that the increased number of marriages between the newly freed, and the increased attendance at church, prove a better state of things than what I have sketched above. I regret that I cannot affirm this. Of the few marriages which do take place, the majority is contracted between old people who for long periods have cohabited together ; and it is, although painful, really laughable at times, to see the decrepitude decked out in finery, appearing before the altar. Most of these couples legitimate the tie which already binds them together from the desire to emulate their

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It may not be, perhaps, irrelevant to say a word upon the amusements of the negro labourer, inasmuch as, by the amusements of a people, we can often guess pretty fairly as to their character and condition. Well, then, the only amusements worthy of the name which the negro possesses is the dance and narrative relation. The dance he is passionately fond of, and I am happy to say that this amusement is now conducted with more decorum and decency than formerly. So fond are they of the dance, that frequently parties who meet at set periods do not break up until three or four days have been wasted; and I have known many a fatal catarrh and pleurisy caused by their devotion to this amusement. Sometimes, on moonlight nights, a party will assemble at the door of their house, and will remain the whole of the night attentively listening to some wild narrative of African origin, which some few amongst them have the talent to relate. The negro, like his betters, is fond of chit chat and scandal, and is delighted when he can pick up a piece of news of this description, especially if it relate to his superiors in rank. The goût and embellishment with which he will relate at these evening circles, and the shouts of laughter with which his auditors listen to it, show their enjoyment. From this avidity for narrative, &c., I am inclined to hope much when they shall be taught to read.

The preceding observations have reference principally to the newly freed adult labourer. As to the rising generation, I fear that from the great want of all the means and appliances to mental culture in this colony, it does not promise what it ought to do for the future. Few of the children are trained up to regular habits of agricultural industry, not that the parents now consider field labour as associated with slavery—not that they consider agricultural occupation in any way degrading. It arises, I imagine, from the ignorance of and want of good management on the part of the parents, the mother especially. The law too, or rather custom of the colony on this point gives the young person too great a facility to act early in life independently on his own behalf. Moreover, in slavery, the authority of the master over the child was always greater than that of his parents. Then too the illegitimate condition of the child, all tend to weaken the parental authority, and bring on this state of things. I have always, so far as lay in my power, discouraged the attempt of the child to quit his parents, who although not wanting in tenderness, often need a support and stimulus to enable them duly to appreciate the advantages of having many children. The planters too have I think done harm in this point; many and many a time have I had to send the police to search for runaway children, who have been encouraged and supported in their evasion by respectable planters, so valuable is labour in this inadequately peopled country. With respect to the rate of mortality, we as yet have no correct data to guide us, and I hardly know what to say. In the parish of Soufrière, the most populous portion of my district, the following extract from the parish register, will give some idea as to Soufrière.

Note des Baptêmes, Mariages, et Décès de la paroisse Notre Dame de l'Assomption de la Soufrière, depuis Janvier 1, 1841, jusqu'au Octobre 1.

Baptêmes	192
Mariages	17
Décès de grandes personnes	42
Décès d'enfans	10

The parish of Choiseul, during the greater part of this and last year, had no curé, and the registers therefore give no indications as to mortality, &c. there. I am inclined, however, to think that the rate of mortality has diminished since emancipation, although liberty, like most sublunary events, has not fallen as an unmixed good to these poor creatures. In the parishes of Vieux Fort, Laboire, and Choiseul and in the whole windward side of the island, there is not now a medical practitioner, and in this populous parish of Soufrière there are but two besides myself, who have been educated in medicine, and of these one has made his fortune, and from ill health has retired from active practice; and the other, although a skilful and humane practitioner, cannot be expected to sacrifice his time and health without remuneration, which the labourer cannot afford to give.

Receiving, as I do, a salary from the British Government, I have thought it my duty to alleviate as much as possible this frightful state of things; but I cannot supply the want of medical skill in the whole of the extent cited above; and I am sure that many a poor woman has lost her life in preternatural labour, and many a poor negro has perished from the want of speedy attendance in acute disease. Liberty has, however, this advantage; the negro when attacked with illness, takes earlier precautions than was done during slavery. The first year after emancipation, was productive of much serious disease; the vagabond habits of running from estate to estate wherever a single sous of augmented wage could be obtained, then so prevalent, was the cause of this, especially to the Soufrière negro, who quitting his own healthy district went to Roseaux and other unhealthy parts of the colony, and almost invariably returned in a sad state of sickness. Their old masters, to do them justice, never refused to receive the poor fellows again; always gave medicines and little necessities gratuitously; but could not afford, nor could it be expected from them, to pay for medical advice. The same difficulty exists respecting the number of births since 1838; but, upon reflection, I am inclined to think that they are upon the increase, and most certainly would rapidly increase, were not libertinage carried to such a degrading extent. The registered baptisms do not aid in forming a correct idea upon this subject, inasmuch as previously to emancipation many children were not baptized, and at present the baptisms are frequently of those born previously to 1838. I have, however, taken great pains to get this year accurate returns, not only of the adult population of my district, but of the children also, which I shall submit in an Appendix to this Report, and which I trust will enable a better judgment for the future to be formed.

About this time last year the hooping-cough carried off many children, and should the small-pox enter the colony, dreadful will be its ravages; none are now vaccinated. I have repeatedly brought this matter before honourable members of council and others, but in vain, and I now take this opportunity of stating that so great is the apathy amongst those most interested in this and other matters, that unless the Government take the initiative steps, the colonists will do nothing.

As to the nature and frequency of offences on the part of the peasantry, they are just what might have been anticipated from such a semi-civilized people. They are principally assaults and petty thefts. Violent disputes and frequent battles between reputed man and wife, are common, and much of the stipendiary magistrate's time (to whom they fly on all occasions) is occupied in settling these affairs; and I beg to say that it requires much patience to arrange satisfactorily these sort of questions, particularly when they concern the equitable division of the "ménage," and future maintenance of the children.

The readiness with which they submit to the magistrate's decisions on these and on all other occasions, does them infinite honour. When I state that I have but one sergeant of police and four constables under my orders to execute all the civil and criminal business of this widely spread and populous district, I am sure that the docility and respectful behaviour of the labouring class will be appreciated.

No. II.—Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors: adverting especially to the condition of tenancy on estates; to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders; to the rising up of hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the country.

The relations between the peasantry and the proprietary body differ much according to the locality and cultivation; but I am sorry to say that, generally speaking, as yet they are of a most unsatisfactory and unstable nature. Both peasantry and proprietors have yet to learn that prosperity to be permanent must be mutual. The sudden emancipation in 1838 gave rise to as much folly on the part of the proprietors, as on that of the peasantry; the many curious and wild schemes invented by the former to retain the services of the latter in this thinly peopled country, were really laughable, and it is only now that some faint glimmerings of common sense on this subject are beginning to be shown.

On the sugar estates the located labourer receives from 10*d.* to 1*s.* per diem, with house and provision grounds rent free. The strange labourer does not of course enjoy house or grounds, but gets perhaps 2*d.* or 3*d.* more wage. I have done my best to persuade both proprietor and labourer to change this system, but in vain; neither will change. The planter will not exact rent and pay proportionate wages, falsely imagining that by retaining the houses and grounds in his possession, he has greater control over his labourer (moreover the old leaven of slavery still works in the planter's brain, who, generally speaking, is most unwilling to admit that the labourer's house is his castle) and on the other hand the labourer will not pay rent, well knowing that in this inadequately peopled country he has the best of the bargain in this respect. The consequence of this pernicious system is that the labourer, not paying rent for house and grounds, knows not their value, and seeks in every way to give as few working days as possible to his landlord; naturally preferring to work on a neighbouring estate as a stranger, at a higher wage, than on the property where he is located. I have actually known two planters, whose estates adjoin, employ the greater part of each others gangs as strangers, at higher wages as non-located labourers, at one and the same moment. Now and then in flagrant instances, a labourer gets expelled; the body therefore of labourers, feeling under this system the insecurity of their tenure, do not take the pains which they ought to do, and used formerly on the cultivation of their provision grounds; and I am sorry to say that at present the labourer on the sugar estates, instead of raising a profitable surplus of provisions for the market, barely cultivate enough for his daily necessities; but of the 22 sugar estates in this district, 14 or 15 have some portion of their canes cultivated in shares by the labourers. Two estates are entirely cultivated on these conditions, and one, a very pretty little property, has been partly purchased by a family of the newly emancipated, and is most admirably managed by the head of the family, a man named Firmin. This estate last year made about 20,000 lbs. of sugar, and from appearances will most probably make 40,000 the coming crop. Where estates have portions only of their canes cultivated in halves by the labourers, disagreements are always occurring; and I am constantly called on for magisterial interference. The industrious negro who always works far better for himself than for his master, finds it more profitable to expend his labour on the canes which are his own, than hire his labour to the proprietor; and the lazy negro will not give proper attention to the weeding, manuring, &c. of his canes, preferring a small result to the giving himself much trouble; so that in either way the proprietor suffers; in the first instance he loses the labour necessary to keep up the proper cultivation of the estate's canes; and in the latter, his moiety of the net produce is reduced below what it ought to be; dissatisfaction ensues, and my mediation is called for. I generally succeed in persuading the well disposed negro to hire a due proportion of his time to the proprietor; and as to the lazy one, I generally, where the neglect is proved, authorize the proprietor to hire labour to clean the neglected canes, the amount to be deducted from the future moiety of the offending labourer.

The coffee properties are worked on a different, but equally unsatisfactory, system. None of the coffee-planters give money wages, but give houses and grounds to the labourers, exacting two days' labour per week in return. Now the negro, who invariably endeavours to give as

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little work as possible for its equivalent, rarely, if ever, performs during these two days a much work as he is capable and ought to perform in one; and there is a constant struggle and heartburning between the parties. It was expected that emancipation would have immensely increased the labouring force on the coffee estates at the expense of the sugar properties. The contrary has turned out to be the case; and as the two days alluded to above are far from sufficient to keep up the existing cultivation of the coffee properties, the planter is compelled to give a large proportion of his plantations to the labourer in halves, who, generally speaking, does not do adequate justice to the proper cultivation of the coffee put in their charge on the above-named terms, preferring a present advantage, however small, to a distant larger profit. Most of these labourers pass their three or four disposable days in each week on the sugar estates, working for wages. I am constantly called on by the coffee-planter to regulate matters, and have the utmost difficulty to make the people understand their duties and their interests on this subject. The two miserable coffee-crops which succeeded emancipation discouraged the labourer greatly; but as the crop already commenced is a most extraordinary good one, I trust they will now see their way better.

Few planters now make extensive new plantations of coffee; the method adopted by those who do make the attempt is to give a lease, varying from four to six years, of a piece of land; the conditions are, that the lessee shall, in a proper manner, plant young coffee immediately, and for doing so shall enjoy the provisions which are always planted for the purpose of shading the young coffee, and at the expiration of the lease (by which time the young coffee begins to cover the ground and to be of value) the plantation shall be estimated, and half the appraised value paid to the cultivator, or a new lease granted, by which the lessee shall enjoy half the coffee product. Such are the various modes by which the estates of this district are now cultivated, and such the relations between proprietor and labourer. Feeling this unsatisfactory state of things, two of the capitalists of this district have resorted to immigration. The Hon. H. King, an extensive coffee proprietor, has brought over a band of Germans, 10 men, 7 women, and 7 or 8 children. I have already given a detailed report upon this interesting settlement; and shall now only say that it presents a gratifying proof of what industry, sobriety, and perseverance on the one side, and enlightened liberality and humanity on the other, can accomplish in a country where nature has been so bountiful as in St. Lucia. I cannot, however, forbear from adding that our little town of Soufriere is now principally supplied with the finer vegetables from this settlement; and that the Germans themselves acknowledge that their gardens, which they cultivate only in their spare time, bring them each a pound sterling per week. I know from my own observations that they have nearly liquidated the heavy advances made to them for clothing, &c., ere they emigrated, by their labour on their employer's estate, and that from the produce of their gardens each head of family has a plethoric sack of money in hand. The Belle Plaine estate, whereon they are located, never presented a finer appearance than it does at present; in fact, the experiment has succeeded in every respect. The Germans have greatly bettered their condition in life; and the Hon. H. King has now almost the certainty of keeping his property in the highest order.

Mr. John Goodman, the other capitalist alluded to, has brought from Barbados a body of nearly 100 immigrants, including children; and at present all parties seem pleased with the result. The wages given by Mr. Goodman are high, comparatively speaking; but the labour performed by the Barbadians is equivalent, for it is no less strange than true, that the Barbadian labourer will, with ease to himself, do in the week at least twice as much work as the Lucian.

Necessity appears to have taught the Barbadian how to handle the hoe, for, according to what they tell me, "it was either work, and work hard too, or starve," at Barbados. The Barbadian emigrants seem a degree more civilized than the St. Lucia labourer, but are not of such a docile and sprightly disposition. With this addition to its numbers the Protestant congregation in the Third District can muster about 140 members, who are all extremely anxious to establish a place of worship, and would with heartfelt willingness muster a sum of money to pay a clergyman. They have many times earnestly spoken to me on the subject, and we shall shortly have the honour to address a memorial to his Excellency on the subject.

As to the progress which the labourers have made in establishing themselves as freeholders, about 60, so far as I can yet learn, have purchased lands in this district; the price differs, according to position and quality, from 10 to 100 dollars the acre. Three new hamlets have arisen. 1st. Mr. Tisnes, owner of the Morne Belair estate, an abandoned coffee property, in the Fond St. Jacques, has leased out this property in lots, varying from 3 acres to 10; and there are at present about 26 houses seated in the midst of their grounds, which are generally well cultivated in provisions and young coffee, where, before emancipation, scarcely a dwelling was to be seen. 2dly. The Hon. H. King has in the same way leased out a long-abandoned coffee estate, called St. Jour; 22 men, 21 women, and 24 children are now living in houses built by themselves on this property, and seem to enjoy peace and plenty. The third hamlet which has newly sprung up is situated on the Hermitage estate, which was purchased at public sale about three years ago by Mr. Boucher, of the Rabot estate. This gentleman has now sold in portions the fee simple of the whole of this property: the first portions, which were the best situated and most fertile, brought about 30 dollars the acre; the price has gradually augmented, and the latter sales have brought more than 100 dollars per acre.

About a dozen families are here established, some of whom, however, are of a better grade than mere labourers; nearly all the labourers on the coffee estates are leaseholders of portions of coffee in full bearing; and I think, if at all industrious, have as happy, if not happier, a lot than labourers in any other part of the globe.

Several labourers in the earlier period after emancipation, in their eagerness to purchase

land, were deceived by unprincipled proprietors. In several instances, after paying the purchase money, building their houses, and making themselves comfortable, a previous mortgagee has stepped in, seized, and sold; and the poor labourer has, perhaps, lost all, or had the greatest difficulty to recover the money which he had expended. The same has occurred with a few lessors. This has made intending purchasers more cautious; and when about to buy land, they generally consult the magistrate, who directs them in the measures which they should adopt to get a proper title.

Spite of all these withdrawals from the ranks of agricultural labourers, the numerical force remaining disposable for the cultivation of the principal staple is not so much diminished as one would have supposed. Many coloured and black persons, free from birth, have turned their attention since emancipation to cane cultivation. It is no longer reckoned "*mauvais ton*" to be seen in the cane-field, hoe in hand. These people, however, prefer raising canes in halves with some estate, rather than hire their labour at a daily wage. It was expected that household servants would have become plentiful after emancipation. The contrary has turned out to be the case, for, strange to say, the best domestic servants, who, previous to emancipation, would have thought themselves degraded if even threatened to be sent to the field, have gone regularly to field labour; and several, whom I knew very well during their household servitude, have become the steadiest jobbers of task-work, and are really valuable members of the agricultural part of the community.

No. III.—New Institutions, as Churches, Schools, Savings' Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

There are no new institutions, save and except one of the Mico schools, which was established in the town of Soufriere in July, 1840. Spite of the difficulties which the teacher, Mr. A. Johnstone, had to contend with from his imperfect knowledge of the French language, and from the opposition on the part of the Roman Catholic clergy, it has flourished better and done more good than any other school in the island. The number of children's names on the books is 86, of whom 82 are boys and 4 girls; 24 are reading the Scriptures, 38 writing, 20 cyphering, and the 4 girls are learning needlework. These children are of all classes, blacks, whites, and coloured; and the improvement evinced by them is encouraging to a degree. In fact, in my humble opinion, the Mico system of teaching is just the system wanted in St. Lucia; it provides just the education needed for a race who, like the negro, must, after a brief course of instruction, enter into a life of moderate toil; it is that system which is best adapted to fill up the interval between infancy and the age for commencing labour, and is the most likely to train the children to such habits and feelings as may render them honest, intelligent, and happy labourers. This is the only school worthy of the name in the district; and when I say that, according to the census of population, which I took carefully a few days back for the blue book, there are 486 children living in the town alone of Soufriere, I am sure the vital importance of the Mico school cannot be over estimated. The newly emancipated are anxious to send their children to school; and were any measures organized by Government to establish schools in central parts of district, would, I have every reason to know, contribute willingly the greater part of the necessary funds. Here again the Government must take the initiative; the planters will not otherwise stir in the matter.

As to savings' banks, it will be long ere these can be in successful operation to benefit the labouring classes, who have been so little accustomed to see disinterested benevolence exercised on their behalf, and who witness so much manœuvring amongst their superiors to get money, that it will be long ere they lodge their little savings in any other place than some secret hole near their dwellings. I am sure that much money is lost in cases of death in this way.

No. IV.—State and Prospects of Cultivation; noticing the supply of labour and the state of wages, the produce of the last crops, and the promise of the next, the weather, &c.

As to the state and prospects of cultivation in this district, they are better than at any period since the abolition of apprenticeship. The rains have not, as during the last two, failed this year; and although late, have ensured a superb sugar crop for the coming year. The coffee planters have commenced gathering, perhaps, the most abundant harvest which has cheered the planter during the last ten years. The only fear is that the trees will not be able to ripen the immense load with which they are covered. Wages are about 10*d.* to 1*s.* sterling per diem, and at the present moment there is no want of hands on the majority of estates in the district. It is during crop season on the sugar estates that the want of labour is felt; for although the numerical labouring force remains about nearly the same as during apprenticeship, the sugar planter can no longer command his operations as formerly. I think that during the apprenticeship the planter on the average could always muster two-thirds of his gang, as effective labourers; he cannot now steadily reckon upon more than one-half (in fact, hardly so much) of those located upon his property to be, one day with another, at his disposal. With all his faults and short-sighted policy, I really think the planter is to be pitied; in a country like this where capital, land, and labour do not bear their due proportions to each other; and where, in addition to the tremendous change which has taken place in society, there have been two years of unparalleled drought. The sugar crop in this district will, I think, give for the year 1842 at least one-half more than it has done for 1841; from what I know of this district, and from what I have seen of the others, I imagine that 1,000 hogsheads addition, at the lowest computation, may be expected from the whole colony next year; and had not Vieux Fort and the windward part of the island suffered so much from the long drought, a greater increase would have taken place.

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No. V.—Improvements and Discoveries; as for instance, any new machine by which labour is saved, any improved method of cultivation, any new manufacture, &c.

No improvement or discovery has taken place, nor any new machine by which labour is saved has been introduced. Not even a single plough brought into use. The only difference which I observe in the method of cultivation is that the planters do not cover so much ground with young canes, but take better care of what they do plant. This is the only slight deviation from the old jog-trot manner of farming which I can see; and it will be very long before the old St. Lucia planters (particularly the French planters) condescend to attempt anything in the way of improvement.

No. VI.—State of Internal Traffic; noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

Here a great change has taken place. Immediately after August, 1838, almost every proprietor started a retail shop on his estate, and in this attempted to get back the money which he had distributed in wages. Fortunately, from the competition of the many retail shops in the town of Soufriere, which is luckily in the centre of the district, this modification of the truck system, did not long thrive; and in the Third District, estate-shops are now few in number. The town of Soufriere contains 228 houses, and nearly every third house is a shop, where something or other is sold. Six or seven are respectable enough to merit the name of "stores," where the usual assortment of a West India store can readily be obtained. Most of the second-rate shopkeepers employ "marchands," who travel from estate to estate with trays on their heads, containing Madras handkerchiefs, prints, and so forth, which they retail at an enormous rate of profit. The negro, who thinks little of the future, and who cannot resist the temptations of these marchands, is easily induced to purchase on credit; and the marchand readily parts with her goods, knowing well that pay day will soon come, and that the law of arrest will enable her to reap her enormous profits without much risk. On most of the estates the labourers are paid once a month at a fixed day; and the marchands, like vultures scenting the carrion, are sure to assemble at that day on the estate; and it is really amusing to see these people pounce on the poor labourer as he comes from his master's door with his pay in his pocket. To do the labourer justice, he fights hard to withhold payment, but is generally overcome by the marchand being a greater adept than the labourer in the mysteries of commerce. I think that if the law regarding small debts were rectified in this respect, a great benefit would be conferred on the labouring classes. Credit would not be so easily granted by the marchand, nor would the labourer be so much fleeced by extravagant retail profits. The coarser kind of goods, such as Osnaburghs, bamboo, do not, now-a-days, meet with a ready sale; it is in the finer qualities of dry goods that the increased business is done. Every negro has now his shoes, parasol, fine drill jackets and trowsers, linen shirts, and a very large proportion of them sport fine broad-cloth dress coats when they come into town on Sundays and fête days. The St. Lucia negro is in general well proportioned and graceful in his carriage; and I can conscientiously say that when dressed in all his finery, he is a much more graceful personage than our clodhoppers in Europe.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BENNETT.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 4.

Sir,

Fourth District, September 15, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Circular of 28th ultimo, containing extracts from a Despatch of the Right Honourable Secretary for the Colonial Department, with a series of queries connected with my official duties. In justice to myself I deem it proper to inform you that the delay which has occurred in furnishing my reply arose solely from my anxiety to render the information and returns called for as authentic and accurate as possible.

The sugar crop in the Fourth District, under my superintendence, is for this year at an end; and if increased produce, as compared with other years, is to be considered as indicative of corresponding increase of industry in the labouring population, and satisfaction on the part of their employers, I have the satisfaction to inform you that, in the Fourth District, this has been fully realized.

My various monthly reports to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor have, in every instance, borne favourable testimony to "the general character and condition of the peasantry;" and personal experience and observation induce me confidently to predict, that every month will add to their morality, industry, and harmony with their employers. Much, however, of this depends on the mode in which the law is administered by the stipendiary justice; it should be his object, if possible, in every dispute between them, rather to use conciliation than adhere too strictly to the laws laid down for his guidance. I, at least, have always found this mode of adjudication the most effectual and satisfactory to all parties.

The "relations existing between the peasantry and proprietors" of the Fourth District are of the most amicable nature. Labourers who choose to reside in the negro villages attached to the different estates on which they work, have in occupation huts and gardens without any deduction from their wages; but no objection is made by proprietors to rent or sell small portions of their uncultivated lands to such of the peasantry who choose thus to establish themselves and families: nor do I conceive that this causes any diminution of labour; on the

contrary, I think that it has tended to increase the supply. There are two villages and one hamlet in this district, each of the former may contain about 400, the latter 50 inhabitants. During the existence of slavery and the apprenticeship system, none of this population could be induced by the most extravagant offers to labour in the cultivation of canes. The contrast now is striking; one-third of the sugar produced in this district is the fruit of their industry.

There are two churches of the Roman Catholic communion, largely attended in this district; but no benefit societies or savings'-bank have as yet been instituted.

Three schools have within the last two years been established from the funds of the "Mico Charity." They have been well attended, and very satisfactory in their operations. The number of pupils attending the schools of this institution throughout the colony is at present about 500. Adverting to them, I cannot but express my regret that the proposed withholding of the annual Government grant will too probably soon deprive the colony of the advantages and benefits these schools were likely to confer. This will be more obvious when I add that hitherto the French language has been almost alone spoken in the colony; and that it is intended at the end of this year to substitute for it the English language in all legal proceedings and courts of law. The deprivation of such schools, therefore, as those so ably brought into action by the "Mico Charity," will be now most seriously and severely felt. Within my knowledge many parents, impelled by a natural desire that their children should acquire *rank*, station, and employment in their native colony, had recently placed them under the tuition of the Mico teachers, with a view to their acquisition of the requisite acquaintance with the English language. That source of instruction is now likely to be diverted from them, and there are but few indeed who can afford the pecuniary expenditure attendant on giving European education to their children.

To the lower ranks it is scarcely necessary for me to observe, that the discontinuance of schools in this colony will prove an evil of even greater magnitude. There have never existed any adult schools, but parents and others of the lower orders were anxious to secure to their descendants those advantages and privileges of education which circumstances had denied to themselves, and from which, under the auspices of the "Mico institution," much good had been derived within two or three years, wherein that charity had to contend with many trying difficulties, not a few of which were engendered by the contrary profession of faith existing between the teacher and the taught. It is to be feared that the extinction of these schools will be in no small degree injurious to the diffusion of knowledge and education, and will ultimately tend to deprive the colonists of that fair chance of place, power, and employment which their personal merits might entitle them to, but of which strangers merely gifted with a knowledge of the English language will, of necessity, reap the fruits.

No public "society" exists in the Fourth District; I am of opinion, however, that the establishment of an agricultural one would prove of very great utility; its objects should be amicable arrangements between employers and labourers; "the adjustment of an equitable tariff of wages;" "the suggestion and introduction of all practical improvements in culture of the staples, and machinery amendments;" "models of the latter and essays on the former, to be received; and prizes for both awarded from funds raised for the purpose, by annual subscriptions and donations." Various other objects will suggest themselves, but the above may serve as a basis for such an institution; office bearers being duly appointed, and the proceedings published from time to time. I have omitted in the above enumeration perhaps the most important point of all to which the attention of an agricultural society might be directed—I mean the increase and improvement of our native horses and horned cattle. Of these exhibitions should take place twice a year; and the owner of each of its class, which the judges should deem superior to others, ought to be suitably rewarded. I trust I shall not be deemed discursive in offering these undigested remarks, on a subject so important.

The "present state and prospects of cultivation" in the Fourth District, are such as justify the expectations of the most sanguine. The supply of labour is not inadequate to the demand. The rate of wages and allowances are liberal. The produce of the crop just ended has exceeded in the proportion of 38 per cent., that of the previous year; and I see no reason to anticipate another aspect of affairs in 1842. The weather has been generally favourable for taking off the past and establishing the expected crop; of the latter, however, it is perhaps too early to speak decisively.

I regret that I cannot, on this occasion, report to the Right Hon. Secretary of State for the Colonies, any new "improvements or discoveries" either concerning agriculture or machinery in the Fourth District. I am, nevertheless, impressed with the belief that time, and fertility of invention, urged on by economy and necessity, will develop many in both. If the improvement of society be progressive in Europe, it is by no means less so under the moral and social state which emancipation has imposed on British West Indian Colonies; and the seed already sown promises an abundant harvest.

The internal traffic of this district may be briefly described. For the luxuries, as well as necessaries of life, the negro population usually resort to three classes of venders. It is here proper to explain that the district under my superintendence is the most remote from the capital, and the journey being expensive and precarious, persons of limited means prefer to pay the three classes alluded to an additional charge, rather than encounter it. The 1st class consists of one or two petty shopkeepers in the villages and hamlets. The 2nd class, of females who travel around the country with packs and trays, similar to their male conjurers, the "pedlars" at home; and the 3rd and most respectable class are proprietors or agents of estates, who import goods from Europe, and keeping a current account for work, performed by the labourer, furnish him with what he may require at the rate of prime cost and charges. It will be obvious to the Right Hon. the Colonial Secretary that, of the three, the latter alone

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secures the labourer from rapacity, and it offers an additional motive to urge those, having the power to establish a good understanding, with implicit confidence between employer and employed. The goods most in demand as luxuries are those which the peasantry of Europe would scarcely dream of—massive gold and jewelled earrings, silk dresses, crape shawls, and other decorations for which my vocabulary denies me words. The necessities of life are wine, porter, hams, pork, salt fish, and other provisions. I am not aware that I could suggest the introduction of any goods other than those which are familiar, and at their option.

Referring to Question 1st, I can have no hesitation in stating, as my previous remarks sought to prove, that the abolition of slavery effected the greatest improvement in the “manners,” “habits,” “tastes,” “rate of mortality,” and “offences, as to nature and frequency, of the peasantry.” I believe that they would have been in a much more advanced state now, but for the intervention of apprenticeship, which kept the apparently enlightened employer in hostility with his really ignorant labourers, and kept in fermentation and existence disputes and misunderstandings, which have not totally subsided or been done away with, at this moment.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

A. C. COLQUHOUN, Special Justice, Fourth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 5.

Sir,

St. Lucia, September 17, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith replies to the questions transmitted by the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, through his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, in your circular letter of 28th August last, and

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JAMES JOHNSTON, Special Justice, Fifth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

REPLIES to Questions conveyed in His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor's Circular Despatch of 28th August, 1841.

1.—THERE has been a progressive improvement in the general character and condition of the peasantry, since the dissolution of the apprenticeship; marriage, formerly but little known among them, is now of common occurrence, and the greatest number of marriages that have taken place, have been between those who had been cohabiting together, and many of them with a numerous offspring; this is of more importance than one would at first be led to imagine, as by the French law, which governs this colony, excepting certain modifications made by the British Government, persons who have been living together, no matter for what period, can by marriage legitimate their offspring; and should the parents die without a will, the children enjoy, share and share alike, whatever property may be left.

The negroes generally are exceedingly fond of dress and show, and will spend any sum within (and often exceed) their means, to procure costly dresses and decorations; perhaps in 99 cases out of 100 a female will be seen with none other than gold earrings, costing from 2*l.* to 3*l.* sterling; and 15*s.* to 20*s.* are commonly paid for working a chemise, to be worn on some particular occasion, and the stuff always of the finest texture. It is to be observed that the costume of the female labourers in the French islands (and those here still follow the same mode,) is entirely different from that of the English colonies; here they use petticoats (jupes) made of fancy coloured prints, sometimes of silk, gowns not being in use. A labourer must be idle or worthless, indeed, if he has not his coat, value about 3*l.*, or at least a jacket of half the worth, with a hat of good quality, and it is seldom that either male or female is seen on Sundays or holidays, without their shoes and stockings and silk parasols, cotton ones being little in fashion among them.

New rum, formerly the exclusive drink, is now chiefly superseded by claret wine, (vin de côte) which costs about 8*d.* a bottle. Salt fish is still the ordinary diet, but on weddings or festivals their parties may vie with those of any other persons for good cheer and abundance. Many of the peasantry have their cows, and horses are not uncommon among them.

The following memorandum has been given in by the curates of two parishes, comprising the Fifth District:—

	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1840	61	21	10
1841 to 10th September	59	12	13

The above includes those children only that have been baptized.

The population of the district may be computed at twelve to thirteen hundred souls.

After the dissolution of the apprenticeship, the labourers were irregular and unsettled in their habits and fond of roving from one estate to another, not so much in search of employ-

ment, as with a view to ascertain how far they were really free; and some time elapsed before they could be convinced that their fears were groundless; the feeling originated from their having been liberated during the French Revolution, and afterwards relapsed into a state of slavery; with the delusion, however, vanished also their fears, and most, if not all of them, returned to the estates to which they had been formerly attached, where they still remain.

Since the 1st of January last, the day on which I took charge of this district, up to the present period, one labourer only has been sentenced to imprisonment for assault, and nine for petty offences, to fines of from 6s. to 16s. This is perhaps the best proof that can be adduced of the unfrequency of offences.

2.—Having served in every district of the colony, I have had ample opportunities of observing the relations existing between the peasantry and proprietors; and consider that, generally, they are of the most friendly description. In the Fourth District complaints from either party were of rare occurrence, and since I have been in charge of the Fifth District, I have not had one complaint from employer or employed in their relative situations.

About 25 labourers in the district have purchased, and 40 leased, lands for a longer or shorter period, varying from three to ten acres, upon which provisions are chiefly planted and huts erected. The greater part, if not the whole of them are, however, still employed as labourers on the sugar estates.

An estate abandoned for many years has lately been re-established at considerable expense; this goes far to show that confidence on the part of the proprietors is on the increase, rather than decline, particularly when there is such a paucity of hands to cultivate the soil.

3.—A school has been lately opened on the Canelle estate, the property of Mr. William Mutes, under the superintendence of a master from the Mico Institution, at which all the children of the estate, and in the neighbourhood, attend; after labour in the evening a great number of adults are also in attendance. A school-house is in progress on another estate, belonging to the same gentleman; there is no other place for public or private instruction, throughout the district, except what may be afforded by the curates.

In the quarter of Dennery there is a small chapel, and a church is being erected at Micoud; a Roman Catholic clergyman visits these parishes alternately; the negroes are very regular in their devotional duties, and have contributed largely, both in labour and money, towards the erection of the church; in fact to them is mainly to be attributed the maintenance of the curate, who receives no fixed stipend from the Government, nor is there any law to oblige them to contribute.

4.—By returns received from the proprietors in the district, the last year's crop yielded 697,000 pounds of sugar, 11,700 gallons of rum, and 19,600 of molasses; and for the present year it will not be under a million of pounds of sugar, with rum and molasses in proportion.

The weather during the last two or three years has been exceedingly unfavourable to the planter. Upon some estates in the district cane plants have been laid in the ground three or four times, and perished from want of moisture; a favourable change has, however, taken place within a few weeks, and the prospect for the next year's crop are very encouraging, and should no untoward circumstances intervene, will greatly exceed that for the present year.

Should the labourers occasionally quit the estates upon which they are employed to work elsewhere, the fault rests more with the planters than them, because so soon as a planter is short of hands, or has some particular work to perform, he augments the rate of wages; the labourers upon his neighbour's property catch at the offer, and quit his employer's service for days together; thus placing him in equal embarrassment, and he in his turn endeavours by any means to procure labour where and how he can.

The state of wages is regulated by the nature and description of work performed.

In the Fifth District there are three descriptions of work,—task, job, and daily labour.

For the first a sum is allowed for digging a certain number of cane holes, or weeding a certain quantity of canes; this I have known to be frequently accomplished by eleven o'clock A. M., the labourers having gained their two shillings to two shillings and sixpence; and they have the option of either continuing to work, according to the same scale, or retire, which they generally do, either to work in their gardens or for other purposes.

Job work is to clear and dig a piece of ground, or weed a piece of cane, according to dimensions, for a certain sum agreed upon by the contracting parties, without any limited period for the performance of the work; frequently a steady labourer undertakes the job, and employs others to assist him.

The rate of wages for eight to nine hours' daily work is from one shilling and threepence to one shilling and eightpence out of crop, and fivepence additional when employed in extra labour during crop.

Every labourer is allowed his hut, and as much ground as he can cultivate for a garden, independently of his wages.

5.—In consequence of the uneven nature of the soil, the hoe is principally in use. On two estates in the district, where the ground is sufficiently level, the plough has lately been brought into operation with advantage, and will no doubt get into more general use, where practicable. With the exception of one estate which has a wind-mill, all the others have water-mills.

6.—Most of the estates have a shop, in which is retailed dry goods, wines and spirits, and salt provisions, hams, &c. The goods most in demand are Indian prints, which are used by all descriptions of females, whether for gowns or petticoats (jupes), Madras imitation, Indian (des Indes), silk (foulards), kerchiefs, and British goods generally. The principal article of food among the labourers, as before observed, is salt fish, and farine manioc; the latter manufactured by themselves. Olive oil is also much in use, as well as common claret wine, "vin de côte."

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The peasantry are allowed to cultivate as much ground as they please for garden, but many prefer planting canes with the proprietors for half the produce, as being more profitable. The country abounds with rivers, and all the sugar estates being as near as practicable to the sea, a supply of fish is easily procured. A very inconsiderable part of the island is in cultivation, game plentiful, and any person who pleases can keep a gun or fowling-piece. These causes may tend greatly to account for the small quantity of provisions produced by their gardens particularly considering the extreme richness of the soil.

(Signed) JAMES JOHNSTON, Special Magistrate, Fifth District.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

(No. 33.)

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DARLING, administering the General Government of the Windward Islands, to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord, Government House, Barbados, November 27, 1841.

I do myself the honour of forwarding to your Lordship reports from the stipendiary magistrates of St. Lucia for the month of October, as received from Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon, administering the Government of that colony.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HENRY C. DARLING, Lieutenant-Governor, administering the General Government.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 14.

Reports 1 to 5.

12 Nov. 1841.

No. 60.

(No. 60.)

Enclosure in No. 14.

Sir,

St. Lucia, November 12, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, copies of the reports of the stipendiary magistrates for the month of October.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GEORGE GRAYDON, Lieutenant-Colonel, administering the Government.

His Excellency Major-General Darling, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

JOHN BEDINGFIELD, Private Secretary.

Encl. in No. 14.

Nos. 1 to 5.

No. 1.

Sir,

Castries, November 3, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my report of the First District under my charge for the month of October; with regard to the working of the labourers there is nothing to be said, and the planters continue to find as sufficient a quantity of hands as they require to employ.

The negligence or want of consideration with which certain justices of the peace in this district pronounce their sentences, obliges me to recall to his Excellency's attention the report for the month of June last, furnished by Doctor Drysdale, magistrate of the Second District, and myself, as to the necessity of establishing here a court, for appeal from the decisions of the justices of the peace, this being the most effectual guarantee for the poorer classes of the community of protection against arbitrary judgments on the part of those gentlemen.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) G. LAFFITTE, Special Justice, First District.

The Hon. Henry H. Breen, Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 2.

Sir,

Gros Islet, Second District, March 2, 1841.

THE tranquillity of the Second District remains undisturbed; few cases have required interference on my part, and the majority of those have been amicably adjusted by effecting mutual reconciliation.

Heavy rains have prevailed during the month, and in some portions of the district the floods have occasioned considerable injury to the growing provisions in the labourers' gardens; large quantities of cassava being rooted up, and plantain trees broken down and carried away by the force of the rushing waters in the neighbouring ravines and rivers.

A few more immigrants from Barbados have arrived this month. They are located on the "Corinthe estate" of this district, a fine sugar property and an eligible situation.

No change in the rate of wages, which continues, as formerly stated, at one shilling and eightpence sterling per diem for ordinary work.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JAMES V. DRYSDALE.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 3.

Soufrière, November 12, 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that for the first three weeks of the month of October, the work on the various estates of this district went on very steadily; the sugar properties are well advanced in their preparations for the ensuing crop, which now cannot fail to be an excellent one, and the coffee proprietors are rejoicing in the abundant harvest which they are now busily engaged in securing. The death of the Rev. Abbé Alaux, the curé of this parish, to whom the labourers were much attached, caused a stoppage for about a week in the agricultural operations of the district generally. Work, however, has been resumed, and all the estates are again in full activity. A few labourers have arrived from Barbados. Wages are the same as last reported, but I am happy to say that ground provisions are becoming very plentiful.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BENNETT, Special Justice, Third District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 4.

Vieux Fort, St. Lucia, November 1, 1841.

Sir,

SINCE the date of my last monthly report no occurrence of particular importance has taken place in this district. Every case affecting the labouring population, which has come before me, I rejoice to inform Colonel Graydon, I have been able to settle by advice and conciliation, and both employers and labourers seem to prosper in their operations.

The rate of wages varies from tenpence to fifteenpence sterling, according to the description of labour; but, independently of what may be considered the cultivation properly appertaining to estates, much land formerly neglected, now bears flourishing cane fields, cultivated in halves, in the manner described in previous reports.

Ere I conclude, I beg leave respectfully to call his Excellency's attention to the dangerous and almost impassable state of the roads in this district; and I do so at the urgent request of persons whose avocations frequently call them from this town to Laborie and Micoud.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. C. COLQUHOUN, Special Justice, Fourth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 5.

Vieux Fort, November 2, 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that there was no sitting of the Court of Petty Sessions in the Fifth District, nor was any person sentenced to fine or imprisonment by me, as special justice, during the month of October.

No alteration has taken place in the rate of wages.

In the early part of the month, from the overflowing of the rivers caused by heavy rains, a quantity of canes were washed away from several estates, particularly Mondesir, quarter of Micoud, and Fond d'Or, quarter of Dennery, since which the weather has been favourable.

The district remains in tranquillity.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. JOHNSTON, Special Justice, Fifth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

ST. LUCIA.

(No. 37.)

No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DARLING, administering the General Government of the Windward Islands, to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord, Government House, Barbados, November 29, 1841.

No. 15.

I AM honoured with your Lordship's Despatch, St. Lucia, of the 30th October, No. 8, relative to the proposed establishment of a Court of Appeal in that island, on the system, as near as circumstances will permit, of that in Barbados, by the late Governor-in-Chief, Sir Evan MacGregor.

I shall not fail to transmit to Colonel Graydon a copy of your Lordship's Despatch, and will accompany it by a copy of the table of fees framed by the Assistant Court of Appeal in this island, as approved by the Governor and Council under the Act of the 29th July, 1838; I shall also have the honour of transmitting a copy for your Lordship's information, as you do not find one in the papers sent home and printed by Parliament.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

HENRY C. DARLING, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 38.)

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DARLING, administering the General Government of the Windward Islands, to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord, Government House, Barbados, December 16, 1841.

No. 16.

8 Dec. 1841.

No. 66.

With 4 Reports.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon, administering the Government of St. Lucia, and of reports of the special magistrates of that island, for the month of November last.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

HENRY C. DARLING, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 66.)

Enclosure in No. 16.

Encl. in No. 16.

Nos. 1 to 4.

Sir,

St. Lucia, December 8, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, copies of the reports of the stipendiary magistrates for the month of November.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

GEORGE GRAYDON, Lieutenant-Colonel,
administering the Government.

His Excellency Major-General Darling, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

JOHN BEDINGFELD, Private Secretary.

No. 1.

Sir,

Castries, First District, December 1, 1841.

IN obedience to the commands of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, as conveyed to me in your official letter of the 23rd ultimo, I assumed the charge of this district on the 26th November.

So recently installed in the First District, I am not prepared to enter into any detail of the state of the district, but it is with satisfaction I can report as to the existence of general tranquillity and good order.

On resigning charge, as stipendiary magistrate, of the Second District, it is gratifying to bear testimony to the orderly and industrious conduct of the labourers, and the conciliatory disposition of their employers.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JAMES V. DRYSDALE, Special Justice, First District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 2.

Soufrière, December 8, 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency Colonel Graydon, that during the month of November the Third District was not so tranquil as I could have wished. In consequence of the death of the Abbé Alaux, curé of Soufrière, there was considerable excitement amongst the labourers. The death of the abbé happening whilst there was a violent feud existing between the abbé and a party of his parishioners, concerning church matters, the labourers, strongly attached to their curé, (with the ignorance natural to a scarce civilized people,) attributed the death of their pastor to these feuds, and felt much irritated in consequence. The work on some of the estates was for a time interrupted, but is now, I am glad to say, being resumed generally. One or two affrays arose from the bad state of feeling, but, from the prompt measures adopted, were speedily suppressed.

The coffee crop is proving a superb one, but will be later in the gathering than usual. The sugar properties are preparing to commence their crop, which promises well.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BENNETT, Special Justice, Third District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)
HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 3.

Vieux Fort, December 1, 1841.

Sir,

ALMOST all the official reports which I have had occasion to transmit to you for some months past, for submission to his Excellency Colonel Graydon, have afforded me gratifying opportunities of bearing my testimony to the tranquil state of the Fourth District under my charge. I am happy now to report, that during the preceding month, no circumstance calculated to disturb the public peace, or interfere with the mutual good understanding existing between employers and labourers, has occurred in this district; at the same time I think it necessary to add, that there has been no want of cases before me, but, acting on conciliatory principles, to which I have in previous reports alluded, I have been enabled to draw contending parties into amicable arrangements.

Wages continue to be the same, but numerous properties are preparing to commence crop, and the additional labour called for in the manufacture of sugar will effect a corresponding rise in pay.

Although the planters of this district generally complain that the weather has been unseasonable as too dry, yet, I am happy to assure his Excellency that the prospects for the ensuing crop in the Fourth District are very favourable. That I may not be supposed to speak at random, I mention the expected crops of a few estates for 1842, as compared with their last, that for 1841. Saphir Estate, 1841, 92 hogsheads; 1842, 190 hogsheads. Balemboche, 1841, 70 hogsheads; 1842, 140 hogsheads. La Resource Estate, 1841, 10 hogsheads; 1842, 40 hogsheads; and almost all the estates an expected increase on the present crop, as compared with the last, of about one third.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. H. COLQUHOUN.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)
HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 4.

Castries, November 29, 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival here this day, for the purpose of taking charge of the Second District, conformably to his Excellency's instructions, conveyed in your letter of the 23d instant, also the superintendence of the Castries Gaol, as Inspector of Prisons in this island.

I beg to remark that up to the period of my departure from the Fifth District tranquillity reigned throughout.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES JOHNSTON, Special Justice, Second District,
Inspector of Gaols.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)
HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

ST. LUCIA.

(No. 3.)

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DARLING, administering the General Government of the Windward Islands, to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbados, January 29, 1842.

No. 17.

St Lucia. No. 71.

11 Jan. 1842.

With 4 Reports.

I do myself the honour of forwarding to your Lordship, Reports from the stipendiary magistrates of St. Lucia for the month of December, 1841, as received from Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon, administering the Government of that Colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

HENRY C. DARLING, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,

&c. &c. &c.

(No. 71.)

Enclosure in No. 17.

Sir,

St. Lucia, January 11, 1842.

Encl. in No. 17.

Nos. 1 to 4.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency copies of the Reports of the stipendiary magistrates for the month of December.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE GRAYDON,
administering the Government.

His Excellency Major-General Darling, Lieutenant-Governor,
Administering the General Government,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(True Copy.)

JOHN BEDINGFIELD, Private Secretary.

No. 1.

Sir,

Castries, First District, January 4, 1842.

No change in this district since my report for the month of November.

The festivities during the Christmas holidays have passed off quietly. A temporary interruption of estates' work, was nothing more than might have been expected; but I am inclined to believe that this has been to a much less extent than in previous years.

No Court of Petty Sessions has been convened during the month of December,

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES V. DRYSDALE, Special Justice, First District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 2.

Sir,

Castries, January 10, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Officer administering the Government, that no complaints were preferred either by employer or employed in the Second District, under my charge, during the month of December.

The average rate of wages is fifteen pence sterling per diem; but the labourers are principally engaged in job work.

The crop has partially commenced, and the weather continues favourable.

The greater number of the labourers employed in the Second District reside off the estates; but, being stationed there only a month, I am unable, myself, to assign any positive cause for this; but, from what I have been given to understand, am inclined to believe they consider themselves much more secure, and less likely to be disturbed on lands to which they have a right as occupants, either by purchase or lease. They remark that, if they cultivated gardens on the estates, they are subject to be ejected at pleasure, when they may lose a great part of their provisions; but that, in cultivating their own lands, they run no such risk. I am also inclined to imagine that they prefer having some retired spot, which they generally choose, where they may be secure from observation or intrusion.

During the holidays, the labourers have been little at work, being engaged in amusements suited to their tastes and habits. They have since returned to their occupations, and are preparing for crop generally.

The district remains in perfect tranquillity.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES JOHNSTON, Special Justice, Second District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 3.

Soufrière, December 8, 1841.

ST. LUCIA.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that December has passed quietly enough in the Third District; the excitement caused by the circumstances attending the death of the late curé of Soufrière has entirely subsided. I am, moreover, happy in being able to add that there was a manifest improvement in the manner in which the labourers conducted themselves during the Christmas and new year's holidays, as compared with the three preceding years. On most of the estates the majority of labourers worked up to Christmas eve, and again on the succeeding week.

Wages continue as last reported, that is, from 10d. to 1s. sterling per diem for ordinary work, with 5d. extra when cropping.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES BENNETT.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 4.

Vieux Fort, January 1, 1842.

Sir,

HAVING been directed on the 26th of November last by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to assume the superintendence of the Fourth and Fifth Districts, and having, in consequence of such nomination, gone my rounds weekly and done duty in both, I trust there will be no impropriety attached to my giving on this occasion, for the information of his Excellency, a report which shall include the district of Vieux Fort as well as that of Micoud.

In Vieux Fort I am happy once more to repeat that agricultural appearances continue most promising, and that the industry of the labourers remains unabated. The quantity of canes planted by them during the year 1840, either on their own account or in halves with their employers, will raise many of them to comparative affluence. From proprietors and managers I hear no complaints of want of labour, nor have I had occasion to see any labourer wandering about in search of employment. There appears to exist in this district a good understanding, not only between the labouring class and the proprietors, but also between the different proprietors and managers themselves. This naturally conduces to the harmony of all, and the result is seen in the healthy and prosperous appearance of the cane fields. Some estates have already made sugar, and nearly all will cut canes to commence crop during the ensuing week. This change, from field to manufacturing labour, will cause an increase in the rate of wages, and add considerably to the comforts of the peasantry in other respects; whilst, if produce brings fair prices in the market, the additional quantity of sugar to be made will amply repay the expense incurred in producing it.

A few Barbadian labourers, recently brought to this colony, have been located on one estate in the district. I fear, however, that hitherto the experiment has proved unsuccessful. There has been mortality amongst them, brought on, I believe, in a great measure, by their own imprudence; and, on the slightest symptoms of sickness, they appear to yield themselves to despondency.

The only cases that came before me during the previous month in this district, that I feel called upon to report, are as under; and I beg leave to explain that not one is between an employer and labourer.

December 17th.

Montout Billy *versus* Victorine.—Aggravated assault. The assault was proved, and defendant was sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment.

St. Rose *versus* Louis and Seraphin.—Trespass: proved. Each defendant amerced 5s. sterling.

E. P. Provoteau *versus* Marie Jeanne.—Trespass: proved. Defendant amerced in the sum of 4s. sterling.

Madame Bonami, for violently obstructing the police in the performance of their duty. Fined 16s. sterling.

I have now the honour to report on the Fifth or Micoud District, of which I lost no time in taking charge, in obedience to his Excellency's orders.

I found the appearance of the cane cultivation sufficiently promising; but I regret to observe that there does not appear to me to exist, either amongst employers or labourers, that unanimity and mutual good understanding which can alone enable them to pull successfully together, and which is so happily evinced in the district of Vieux Fort. I should be the last individual living to propose combination either to masters or servants, still I would go the length of recommending that one uniform rate of labour and wages should be established between them. In Micoud the current rate of wages considerably exceeds that of Vieux Fort, whilst, in so far as I can yet judge, the labour performed is certainly less, and procured with more difficulty. This is owing to a most injudicious and shortsighted practice which generally prevails in the Fifth District. I allude to the system of one planter holding out inducement to the labourers of his neighbour to leave him, whilst, perhaps, that neighbour is at the very same moment reciprocating the compliment as respects himself. This causes mutual mistrust; and by each one seeking to increase his own gang at the expense of the other, wages are

ST. LUCIA.

augmented to a ruinous amount, and the negro makes his market out of both at very little expenditure of labour to himself.

I must also express my regret at the want of unity in opinion existing in the Fifth District as regards the mode of working;—certain planters upholding, in the strongest manner, by precept and example, the system of task; whilst others, the majority I believe, advocate the old mode of working morning and afternoon.

I regret to have had thus to report; but I should have been wanting in my duty had I failed to convey to his Excellency my candid opinion as to the state of affairs during the first month I have held charge of the Fifth District.

I trust that future reports will enable me to set matters before him under a very different aspect.

My Judicial Report contains only as follows, viz. :—

December 21st.

George Cotter *versus* Genrade.—Trespass: proved. Fined 16s. sterling.

Mathurin *versus* Lacorbiniere.—Assault. This complaint was frivolous, and dismissed.

In conclusion, I beg leave to state that I have now resided 14 months in the colony,—13 of them as special justice; and that, month after month, I have had reason to remark the rising intelligence and industry of the labouring classes. To this I bear most willing testimony.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. C. COLQUHOUN, Special Justice, Fifth District.

The Hon. H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,

&c.

&c.

&c.

(True Copy.)

HENRY H. BREEN, Acting Colonial Secretary.

P A P E R S

RELATIVE TO

G R E N A D A.

(No. 3.)

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DARLING, administering the General Government of the Windward Islands, to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbados, February 2, 1842.

No. 1.

I HAVE the honour to forward the accompanying copy of a Letter from his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Grenada, together with Reports from the Special Magistrates on the state of their several districts, as required in my Lord John Russell's Despatch of the 22nd April last, General, No. 11, addressed to his Excellency the late Governor-General.

22 January, 1842.

No. 123.

Nos. 1 to 6.

(Signed) I have, &c.,
HENRY C. DARLING, Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 1.

(No. 123.)

Sir,

Government House, Grenada, January 22, 1842.

Encl. in No. 1.

WITH reference to your Excellency's Despatch, dated 10th August, 1841, No. 14, enclosing an extract from a Despatch of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, with a series of six questions to be put to the Stipendiary Magistrates. I have the honour to transmit herewith the answers to those questions, as given by the respective Stipendiary Magistrates in this island.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. H. DOYLE, Lieutenant-Governor.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor,
administering the General Government.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 1.

DISTRICT OF ST. GEORGE.

REPORT of Richard M. Jephson, Stipendiary Magistrate of the District of St. George,* Grenada, on the questions submitted by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Stipendiary Magistrates for answers thereto.

Question 1. "General character and condition of the peasantry; noticing any changes observable, since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners, habits, or tastes; in the rate of mortality; or in the nature and frequency of offences?"—The general character of the peasantry is so far good, that there is an almost total absence of the heavier crimes. A tendency to petty pilfering, disregard to truth, and somewhat loose notions of morality, are their prevailing vices. I am of opinion that, generally speaking, they are not lazy. They labour hard for themselves, and if they relax when working for others it is more the result of habit, having so long worked without remuneration. However, there is, in this respect, an

* This district comprises the parish and town of St. George—the principal town in the island.

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improvement, and latterly the labourers on the plantations are more assiduous and perform their work more carefully.

Their condition. I should say that they are as comfortable, happy, and independent, as any other peasantry in the world, if not more so, (many of them are actually wealthy.) If there are exceptions it must be their own faults.

Their habits and tastes are certainly improved since the time of apprenticeship. Their houses are somewhat better furnished, and they consume more meat than formerly. Their love of dress is proverbial. The consumption of rum is increasing amongst them; but they do not appear to commit excesses in this way, as a drunken negro in the country parts of the island is comparatively a rare sight.

There is no difference observable in the rate of mortality with regard to adults, and from all I can gather rather a decrease amongst children.

The most frequent offences against the law are petty assaults amongst each other and slander. For the former the person aggrieved has legal redress, for the latter none is open to them. Offenders of this nature are chiefly women.

2. "Relations between the peasantry, and the proprietors; adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy in estates; to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders; to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony."—The relations between the peasantry and the proprietors and the condition of tenancy on estates vary a good deal in my district. On some estates a weekly rent is charged to the labourer for his house and garden, which is deducted from the weekly amount of his wages; on others this rent is only exacted when the labourer does not work, but still keeps possession of his house and land. On others no rent is charged under any circumstances, but in this case the rate of wages is something lower. Some give besides a weekly allowance of salt fish; some add the benefit of medical advice gratis. In all cases the proprietor or his agent has the power of evicting the labourer in a very summary manner by the Grenada Act, No. 298. I now speak of the labourers actually attached to the plantation living in the houses especially erected for their use. There are besides upon many estates yearly tenants of an acre or two, with a house built by themselves, the rent for which will be taken in labour if the tenant pleases.

In this district, more than any other in the island, have the labourers become freeholders and small landholders in the greatest number. They do not congregate in villages; each erects his cottage in the centre of his holding. There can be no doubt that this settling system has withdrawn a great supply of labour from the staple produce of the colony; for although these people sometimes work on the estates they do so very irregularly, and only when they are much in want of money, which is not often the case, as they at all times meet with a ready sale for the produce of their land.

3. "New institutions; as churches, schools, savings' banks, benefit societies."—There are no new churches; two new schools; no savings' banks, or benefit societies.

4. "State and prospects of cultivation, noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages, the produce of the last crop, and the prospect or promise of the next, the weather, &c."—The state of cultivation is at the present time tolerably good generally, varying somewhat on different estates, according to the supply of labour. The supply of labour is greater on some estates than others, but everywhere considerably less than the demand. The emigration to Trinidad, which seems now on the increase, together with the settling system, has, as I have already observed, abstracted from the estates a vast supply of labour. The rate of wages varies; but 1s. a day, including the value of allowances, is a fair average.

The last crop was what is called a "short" one; on some estates almost nothing; however, this is in great part to be attributed to the extraordinarily dry season. The climate, even in my district (less than a fifth of the island) is very various. A dry season, while it is particularly favourably to one estate near the mountains is ruinous to one on the coast. Thus the mountain properties have made fair crops, considering their diminished supply of labour, while many of those on the sea-shore have made nothing at all, and some have been actually abandoned. The prospect of the ensuing crop is better. The genial rains which have lately fallen, though too late to be of any great service, have still improved the growing canes a good deal. When I say that the prospect of a future crop is better, I mean if our labourers remain with us. If they continue to emigrate as they do now, which is not unlikely, and we do not get others in their stead, the fate of the island, as regards the cultivation of sugar estates, need not be told.

The produce of the last crop from 22 sugar estates (the number in my district) has been from 725 to 735 hogsheads. The quantity might have been exactly stated had the usual returns been forwarded to the island treasurer's office. There is, generally speaking, a prospect of a trifling improvement in the ensuing crop, to be attributed to the genial rains that have lately fallen.

5. "Improvements and discoveries; as, for instance, any new machine by which labour is saved, any improved method of cultivation, any new manufacture, &c. &c."—There have been no improvements or discoveries for the saving of manual labour in this district; no improved method of cultivation.

The plough is used when it is practicable, but the district, being generally hilly, that is but seldom the case.

There are no new manufactures.

6. "State of internal traffic, noticing the sort of goods which are in most demand."—Articles of wearing apparel, carried about the country parts of the island by women hucksters

or sale to the negroes, is the only internal traffic, if we except the regular weekly supply of vegetables and fruit for the market of St. George by the peasantry of the interior.

RICHARD M. JEPHSON, Stipendiary Magistrate.

No. 2.

DISTRICT OF ST. DAVID.

ANSWERS to Six Queries received from the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, by Laurence John Walsh, Stipendiary Justice for the parish of St. David, Grenada.

Question 1. "General character and condition of the peasantry; noticing any changes observable, since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners, habits, or tastes; in the rate of mortality; or in the nature and frequency of offences."—Of the character of the labourers in this district I am happy to be able to report in favourable terms; their obedience to the orders of such of their employers as treat them with common civility, is a feature in their character to which I refer with pleasure; and in confirmation of this remark, I would particularly allude to the very exemplary behaviour of the labourers on Belle-Vue, Upper Latate, Corinth, Cape Sale, and Westerhall estates, on all of which properties the supply of labour is ample, and the confidence between employer and labourer perfectly established.

In habits of morality the labourers are decidedly progressing. Marriages amongst them are happily becoming of frequent occurrence, and they evince a great desire to have the younger branches of their families instructed; the children are generally taken from school between the ages of 13 and 15 by their parents, and from that period assist in the labour of the plantations.

As regards their condition, it is decidedly good; they are, generally speaking, comfortably situated and well paid, it being in the power of an industrious labourer to earn by task-work from 1s. 6d. to 2s. sterling per day, while the produce of his provision grounds supplies his family with vegetables, and leaves an ample surplus to be brought to market.

The tastes and habits of the peasantry, since the termination of the apprenticeship, have considerably altered; the coarse Peniston clothing of the slave is now replaced by an article of superior manufacture, and on holidays the dress of the negro is even costly and extravagant. No expense is spared by them in the purchase of finery; and even in the furniture of their houses, and mode of living, a change has taken place.

The decrease in the number of deaths since the apprenticeship has been at least one-fifth, and medical attendance and medicines are still supplied at the expense of the estates. The offences at present mostly prevailing amongst the labourers are those of petty assaults, and slander. But crime is much upon the decrease, and cases of larceny or felony of any description are isolated and uncommon; indeed, since the extinction of compulsory and unrequited labour, the husbandman can with common industry procure the enjoyment of every article of comfort which poverty or necessity formerly compelled him to procure by theft.

2. "Relations between the peasantry and the proprietors; adverting especially to the condition of tenancy on estates, to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders, to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony."—The existing relations between the peasantry and the proprietors (or rather their agents) are those of mutual dependence, the planter who is alive to his own interests endeavouring by every honest means in his power to procure the constant supply of labour so indispensably necessary to the growth and manufacture of the staple commodity of the colony, and the labourer relying on his employer for constant work and fair remuneration: this state of dependence on the part of the planter must of course continue, so long as the supply of labour is not more than equal to the demand, but would be considerably lessened by the introduction of African emigrants to any extent.

The conditions of tenancy on estates are, in my opinion, very unsatisfactory. The following are the terms on which the labourer holds his house and grounds:—Should he agree to work for five consecutive days in the week, he is allowed the use of a cottage, rent free, and a sufficient quantity of land for the cultivation of provisions; if, however, he absent himself from his work under any pretence whatever, without a special permission from the manager of the estate, he is charged at the rate of 1s. 6d. or 2s. sterling per week as rent for his cottage; but should his absence be prolonged for a further period, he can be expelled on application to a stipendiary magistrate within one month.

I am happy, however, to be able to state that ejectments have been of very rare occurrence in this district; that the labourers however are aware of the disadvantages they have to encounter under the present system of tenancy may easily be ascertained by their becoming every day renters of small lots of land in the immediate vicinity of the estates on which they work. These settlements they devote exclusively to the cultivation of provisions in preference to working the waste lands of the estate to which they were formerly attached, and from which they are now so liable to be expelled.

On the whole, however, I am rather inclined to approve of the system of renting detached portions of land now so universally pursued by the peasantry; it will undoubtedly render them more independent of the caprice of their employers, and give them an interest in the soil, which, under the present mode of tenancy on estates, they could not possibly entertain.

Many planters have complained to me of what they are pleased to term the ingratitude of their former slaves in now leaving their estates and renting land elsewhere; were they, however, unanimously to adopt the plan of renting *their* waste lands to *their own labourers* at a

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N.B. I here allude to freeholders who are entitled to vote for the return of a member to the House of Assembly.

moderate yearly rental, instead of pursuing the objectionable practice now in general use, their gain would be considerably increased, and the natural attachment of the labourers to the places of their birth be strengthened and encouraged; this state of things can never be looked forward to so long as the peasantry are subject to be ejected summarily.

Since the termination of the apprenticeship little or no progress has been made by the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders, the laws of the colony requiring the qualification of a freeholder to consist in the *bonâ fide* possession of twenty acres of land. Purchasers, however, of small lots varying from one to five acres of land, have become very frequent in this district, the average price being about 10*l.* sterling per acre; although the purchaser invariably erects a comfortable cottage on his new purchase, no villages are yet being established. The effect hitherto occasioned by these changes upon the supply of labour has been very trifling, and I find upon strict inquiry, that such of the labourers that have purchased lands, generally work on the estates for five days in the week, and employ their Saturdays in cultivating their gardens.

3. "New institutions; as churches, schools, savings' banks, benefit societies, &c."—Only one school has been established in this district, and that through the influence and exertions of the Lord Bishop of Barbados. The school is well attended by the children from the surrounding estates. There are no savings' banks. No benefit societies.

4. "State and prospects of cultivation; noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages, the produce of the last crop and the promise of the next, the weather, &c."—As regards the prospects and state of the cultivation, I regret to say that they have been considerably impaired by the almost unprecedented continuance of dry weather, which has been experienced, without intermission, from the month of October last year to the beginning of July in the present year. Owing principally to this unavoidable circumstance, there was hardly any possibility of planting during the months of October and November of 1840, nor of establishing the spring plants to any extent during the early part of this year. The expectations, therefore, for the crop of 1842 cannot reasonably be great, although there is no doubt that it will exceed that of the present year by at least 20 or 30 hogsheads. The sugar manufactured in this district, the smallest in the island, during the crop months of 1840, was, as near as I can ascertain, 402 hogsheads; 484 hogsheads have been shipped as the crop of the present year; and even under every disadvantage of weather an increase, as before stated, of 20 or 30 hogsheads may be looked forward to for the coming crop. On most of the estates, and more particularly on those to which I have referred in my answer to the first query, there is no want of labour; and had the weather been at all favourable, large crops would have been made.

I regret, however, that emigration to Trinidad has drawn considerably on the supply of labour upon one or two of the largest properties in this district. It is true that many of the emigrants have returned, but their constitutions have so materially suffered from the effects of the change of climate, that they seldom resume their work for some months. The average rate of wages, unless at task-work, may be quoted at 1*s.* per diem, with a weekly allowance of salted fish, sufficient land for the cultivation of provisions, and the use of a cottage rent free. The weather at present is most favourable, and the cultivation generally has assumed a very vigorous appearance.

5. "Improvements and discoveries, as, for instance, any new machine by which labour is saved, any improved method of cultivation, any new manufacture, &c."—The only improvement which has been introduced since the expiration of the apprenticeship, and by which considerable labour is saved, during the months of crop, is the establishing of railways on many of the properties for the purpose of removing the refuse of the ground canes into the sheds prepared for its reception, many of which are at a considerable distance from the mill. The tram-carts used upon these railways are worked by machinery attached to the water-wheel of the sugar-mill; thus the wet magass is removed from the mill-room, the waggons returning laden with the dried fuel for the furnaces. A saving of at least three-fifths of the manual labour formerly required for the above purposes is effected by means of these railways. No improved mode of cultivation has as yet been introduced, although the plough is in operation on some of the properties in this district.

6. "State of internal traffic; noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand."—As regards this district there is but little internal traffic of any description, the contiguity of the capital town of the island with most of the estates affording every facility to the labourers for the purchase of such goods as they generally require.

(Signed)

L. J. WALSH, S. J. P.

No. 3.

DISTRICT OF ST. MARK AND ST. JOHN.

Grenada, September 22, 1841.

Question 1. "General character and condition of the peasantry; noticing any changes observable, since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners, habits, or tastes; in the rate of mortality, or in the nature and frequency of offences."—I consider the general character and condition of the peasantry since the dissolution of the apprenticeship partially improved. There is a greater desire to unite themselves in marriage; to add comforts, such as furniture, to their houses than formerly. They are more civil; imitate the manners, tastes, and habits of their superiors. The mortality among them is not so great as in apprenticeship; the mother has now the opportunity of personally attending her child in sickness; during

apprenticeship the infant was left under the care of an old person, called a nurse, while the mother was at her compulsory labour, and it cannot be expected the attention of a stranger can be equal to that of a parent. There is little alteration in the nature and frequency of offences, for the negro is still prone to acts of petty theft and untruth. Time and education, I hope, will amend this in the next generation.

2. "Relations between the peasantry and the proprietors; adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates, to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders, to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony."—I believe on most properties there exists a good understanding between peasant and employer; the latter finds it his interest to be kind to the former, if from no other cause than fear of the labourer leaving the estate; but frequent differences arise between landlord and tenant, when the latter absents himself from work. There is no general regulation as to tenancy; some estates combine rent with labour, others charge for absence under the head of rent, and call it an implied contract; other managers give the absentee immediate notice to leave the property without charging any rent. There have been a few new hamlets built, but no new villages formed. Many labourers who had left estates are returning to them, others emigrating to Trinidad, finding it difficult to establish themselves as freeholders so comfortably as they anticipated, from the want of means. The supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony is short; and on many properties it is severely felt.

3. "New institutions; as churches, schools, savings' banks, benefit societies, &c."—There has been one Roman Catholic church established since the dissolution of apprenticeship in the town of St. Mark; others of the same faith are building in other parishes of the colony. The schools of that religion are increasing and getting an addition of scholars; this occasions a falling off in those of other persuasions. No savings' bank or benefit society have yet been formed that I know of.

4. "State and prospects of cultivation; noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages, the produce of the last crops and the promise of the next, the weather, &c."—From all I can learn, the state and prospects of cultivation in the united parishes of St. Mark and St. John is much the same as during apprenticeship, although the supply of labour has decreased. The rate of wages generally given here is 4s. 6d. sterling to first class labourer, 3s. sterling to second class labourer, the same to a mule boy, with two pounds of salt fish to all, for five days' work weekly, of nine hours each day. The crop of last year in this district was an increase upon that of the previous year, and it is expected the next will be more abundant than the one of this season, the weather being more favourable.

5. "Improvements and discoveries; as, for instance, any new machine by which labour is saved, any improved method of cultivation, any new manufacture, &c."—In the united parishes of St. Mark and St. John no new improvement, discovery, or any new machine by which labour can be saved, have been introduced to improve the method of cultivation. The district being very hilly and stony, the plough even cannot be used; therefore the old method of using the hoe is still followed. Neither has any new manufacture, &c. been practised.

6. "State of internal traffic; noticing the sorts of goods which are in most demand."—The internal traffic of this colony is very limited. The sort of goods most in demand are light cotton and linen for wearing apparel, boots and shoes, also such provisions as will keep in a warm climate for table use, wine, and ironmongery.

(Signed)

C. S. FRASER, Stipendiary Justice of the Peace,
District of St. Mark and St. John.

No. 4.

DISTRICT OF ST. PATRICK.

1. The general character and condition of the peasantry, I consider to be much improved, contrasting both with what I have ascertained, from minute inquiry, to have been a general principle during the period of apprenticeship, their habits are unquestionably more moral, and industrious, which as a natural consequence has rendered the occurrence of crime, and its extent, considerably less, a fact which the records of the courts of law in the colony will fully establish. Common assaults constitute their offences, which are daily becoming less frequent, and less aggravated; the rate of mortality is not half so great as during the days of slavery and apprenticeship.

2. In respect to the relationship subsisting between the attorneys and managers of estates, and the labourers resident thereon, it might with perfect truth be asserted, that every feeling of confidence and attachment, (if at any time subsisting,) has now merged into a general system of discontent and disputation, emanating in most cases that have come within the sphere of my observation, from the oppressive system practised and pursued in the exaction of rent for the cottages, and gardens nominally allowed to the labourers, aggravated as that system is by the facilities afforded of effecting summary courses of ejectment, an evil which, in my opinion, has tended more to produce emigration to the neighbouring colony of Trinidad, than any other cause of which I am aware.

The rent for cottages and gardens is not regulated according to the relative value of either, nor is the number in any family limited from whom the amount for rent is exacted. The employers strictly prohibit the location of freeholders (labourers) upon any of the cultivated estates in this parish.

3. The branches of the Colonial and West India banks, established in the town of St. George's,

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with Protestant schools in the parishes, and two Roman Catholic churches are the only institutions which I know to exist. The proprietors of the Morne and Endue, and Chambord estates, have lately established a school in this parish. I have, however, to remark, that the attorneys and managers of estates, display a lamentable apathy as regards the education of the children of the working classes.

4. The prospects of the present cultivation, and consequent production of produce throughout this parish, are, as I am informed, as favourable as heretofore, upon those properties, where a well regulated system exists, and is pursued in respect to the labourers. The supply of labour is comparatively short, (arising from emigration) the labourers of the first class receive 4s. 6d. sterling, together with two pounds of salt fish, valued at 6d., for five days of continuous labour, the rate of wages (though low) would not be complained of, had the weekly deductions for cottages and gardens been better regulated, and made payable at annual instead of weekly periods. The crops of the years 1840 and 1841 are, I am informed, nearly equal in their returns, there is, however, every probability that the crop of next year in this parish will exceed the late one, owing to the favourable weather and seasonable rains.

5. With the exception of two boarded railways, which have been established at Belmont and Mount Alexander estates in this parish, for the conveyance of magass from the mills on those properties, I am not aware of any other improvement in husbandry which has taken place during my residence in the island.

6. The principal source of traffic which exists in the interior of this island, appears to me to consist of a retail sale of spirituous liquors, and of cotton and linen, British manufactured, goods, effected chiefly through the medium of licensed hucksters.

(Signed) PHILIP STAUNTON, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Parish of St. Patrick's, 23rd of September, 1841.

No. 5.

DISTRICT OF ST. ANDREW.

Question 1. "General character and condition of the peasantry; noticing any changes observable, since the dissolution of the apprentice system, in their manners, habits, or tastes, in the rate of mortality, or in the nature or frequency of offences."—With respect to the general character and condition of the peasantry, I am of opinion that they are not naturally of an industrious disposition, although there are certainly many exceptions to be found.

This may be accounted for from the facility with which they can gain a livelihood, as the wages of two days, in addition to the produce of his garden, will afford adequate subsistence to a labourer for the next four or five.

They must certainly be considered as orderly and well behaved in their general conduct and deportment.

Their condition in this district is good, and they are generally well treated by their employers, and appear contented, as far as my short residence here will enable me to judge; whilst in morals, habits, and tastes, they appear to have made rapid advances since they became totally free. Offences of all descriptions have, as far as I can learn, decreased since that period, and heinous crimes have been of very rare occurrence.

2. "Relations between the peasantry and the proprietors; adverting especially to the condition of tenancy on estates, to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders, to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony."—There is no regular system of tenancy in force in this district. The labourer, when at work for his employer, receives in addition to his daily wages a good house and provision ground, rent free; but when he is, as is often the case, working his own grounds for several days, then he is required to pay a small rent (at the rate of 2s. a-week), for the use of these grounds, and the occupation of his house. Many labourers in this district have become freeholders, the proprietors having sold to them certain portions of land, which they have immediately put into cultivation, and erected a house thereon, and these have again resumed their work on the estates.

There is certainly amongst the whole body a strong desire to become possessed of land.

I am not aware of any hamlets or villages having sprung up in this district since the dissolution of apprenticeship.

It will be proper here to mention that this district has materially suffered as regards the supply of labour by the emigration of many of the peasantry to Trinidad, induced partly by curiosity, but chiefly by the very high rate of wages the planters in that colony hold out to induce an influx of the labouring population from the neighbouring colonies.

3. "New institutions; as churches, schools, savings banks, benefit societies, &c."—The schools under the Mico Charity were established (as I learn) since the total emancipation, and they have very lately been brought to a close. There were two in this district. There is at present a new Roman Catholic chapel building; and the foundation-stone of a Wesleyan chapel was laid a few days ago. There are no banks of any description in the district, or benefit societies, &c.

4. "State and prospects of cultivation; noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages, the produce of the last crop and the promise of the next, the weather, &c."—The cultivation has improved (I believe), though less extensive than formerly, in consequence of the introduc-

tion of the plough, where practicable, and enriching the soil by the application of manure. There is not adequate supply of labour, in consequence of the emigration before mentioned.

The produce of the last crop in this district cannot be stated with any accuracy until January, 1842, the period of the year at which the returns, showing the amount of the previous crop, is sent into the public treasurer's office. From all I can gather by inquiry, I should say that it certainly exceeded 1500 hogsheads of sugar, &c.

The prospects of the ensuing crop have been somewhat improved by the late very seasonable weather, but, from the previous extraordinary drought (for a period of ten months), I am afraid a very trifling improvement, if any, can be looked for.

5. "Improvements and discoveries; as, for instance, any new machine by which labour is saved, any improved method of cultivation, any new manufacture."—The only improvements in the shape of machinery, in this district, that I have seen, are wooden railroads, on some of the properties, for the conveyance of the magass from the mill to the magass-house, whereby the saving of the work of at least six or seven individuals is obtained. A very superior one of iron is now erecting on the Paradise estate. No introduction of any new manufacture has, to my knowledge, taken place.

6. "State of internal traffic; noticing the sort of goods which are in most demand."—The state of internal traffic is not, I am informed (for I cannot pretend to give a decided answer from my own observation, in consequence of my short residence here), so flourishing as formerly, and that, since the dissolution of apprenticeship, the introduction of dry goods has been of a less fine, but more useful description.

Articles of consumption have been in greater demand than previous to that period.

(Signed) E. L. DARLING, Stipendiary Justice of the Peace.

November 1, 1841.

No. 6.

DISTRICT OF CARRIACOU.

Question 1. "General character and condition of the peasantry; noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship in their manners, habits, or tastes—in the rate of mortality, or in the nature and frequency of offences."—They are industriously disposed, will labour willingly for a fair remuneration, have a natural desire of providing for their families, and will take their labour to the best market; are scarcely ever idle, and are to be seen working in their own grounds, or elsewhere, so soon as their tasks on the properties on which they are located are finished; are strongly attached to their native country, and evince a laudable disposition to cultivate domestic happiness, and imitate the example of their more respectable and virtuous employers in the exercise of honourable actions; and the desire to have improved their intellectual condition is gratifying. They are fully sensible of the respectability and purity of the marriage state, and few there are who do not enter it and conduct themselves creditably afterwards. They are regular in their attendance at Divine worship, and serious in their demeanour while there; they are eager for mental improvement, and are far from being dull. Their attention is more directed now than formerly to household furniture and other domestic comforts. They evince much respect for the laws and constituted authorities, where such authorities do not show any of the disposition of the olden times of slavery, and the not much better ones of the apprenticeship; they have the greatest aversion to all whose conduct towards them reminds them of the sufferings they have endured, and place no confidence in the local magistracy. The mortality is considerably less than in the days of slavery; the offences committed by them are very few, and these are merely petty assaults and trifling thefts; and I am persuaded these offences will seldom occur, as their moral and intellectual condition is improved by a proper system of education, and the good example of their more fortunate and enlightened fellow citizens.

2. "Relations between the peasantry and the proprietors; adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates, to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders, to the rising up of new hamlets and villages, and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony."—In this island effect labourers get 7½d. for their daily task, which is generally performed in four or five hours. They have the occupancy of a thatched cottage in consideration of part wages, with a small portion of inferior land of the property for provision ground, and have no other privilege. Though the cottage is held on such condition, they are almost invariably compelled to put it in tenantable order themselves. They complain of not receiving their wages for, very often, six or eight weeks after they become due. They are satisfied with an employer whose language and actions tend to convince them of a desire to consult their happiness. They are very anxious to invest their means in such portions of land as they are able to buy, having great satisfaction in the idea and reflection of securing a home for their families; but very few attorneys and proprietors are disposed to sell to them, from an apprehension of their being too independent to work for the estates. To say nothing of this check to honest exertion,—to the raising of a happy peasantry, attached to the soil, and having an interest in its general prosperity,—there would be little or no ground for such apprehension if a conciliatory and an English spirit were plainly and undisguisedly shown by the employer to the labourer,—if all suspicion and distrust, on the part of the latter, were removed.

3. "New institutions; as churches, schools, savings' banks, benefit societies, &c."—In this island there is but one established church. The minister is of very reputable character, but the labourers are in lamentable darkness as to vital, soul-saving religion,—its knowledge, its power

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and never-failing effects. There is one colonial day-school, and there are no savings' banks nor benefit societies; the want of which latter institutions, conjointly with more extensive means of mental cultivation, is much to be deplored in any community, but especially as it regards the newly-emancipated class in our West Indian colonies.

4. "State and prospects of cultivation; noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages, the produce of the last crop and the promise of the next, the weather, &c."—The cultivation here is neither advanced nor advancing; it is far from being properly attended to, and made a science of, with anything like a taste for it. In this particular everything is done slovenly. From the wages being much lower than in Trinidad and Saint Vincent; the estates here have lost many of their labourers, who have emigrated there in the prospect of doing better. The last crop of sugar was considerably less than many preceding ones, and from the severe drought of this year, of no less than eight months' continuance, the ensuing one will still be less. Several estates will make no sugar at all. For the last four or five weeks the island has been favoured with fine showers, but it is said they have come too late for the crop of next year.

5. "Improvements and discoveries; as for instance, any new machine by which labour is saved, any improved method of cultivating, any new manufactures, &c."—In this island nothing of the kind.

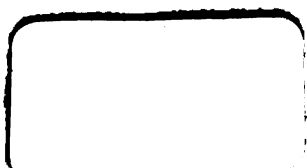
6. "State of internal traffic; noticing the sort of goods which are in most demand"—The merchants and shopkeepers complain of the dulness of the times. The labourers principally purchase salt-fish, pork, salt, corn-meal, and rice; and of dry goods, good check for shirting for everyday use, middling quality linen, calico, osnaburgh, and a coarse, thick, blue cloth, called Peniston. The females are fond of show, and will buy anything gay in their way they can afford; but prints of pretty and lively pattern, and headkerchiefs for turbans they chiefly seek. The labourers are very attentive to their dress on Sundays; the majority of them wearing their shoes and stockings; and the men, who are emulous of respectability of appearance, will have their good surtouts and coats, especially those who have earned a few dollars in Trinidad and those colonies where the wages are much higher than in others.

(Signed)

NATHANIEL ROACH, Stipendiary Magistrate,

Carriacou, October 24, 1841.

His Excellency Colonel C. J. Doyle, Lieutenant-Governor,
&c. &c. &c.



044 106 496 375